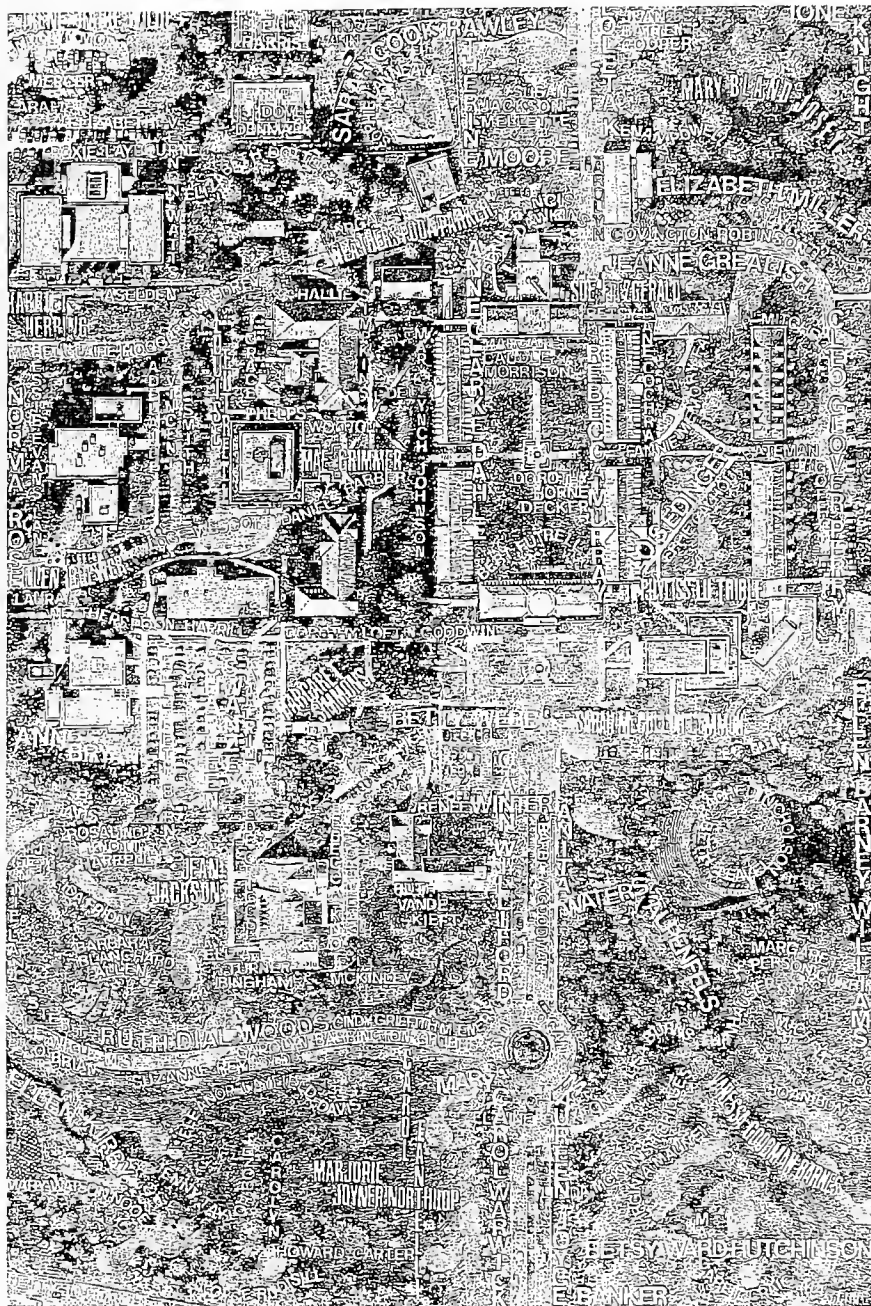




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the
Park Center
mural

confidence
women can do anything.
1967 ellen kirby

Women

should help women.

1968 maureen banker

story

human spirit.

bernice kelly harris

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FitzSimons

Linda Poole FitzSimons Mural Artist, Organizer and Coordinator

Artist Statement

"One is a college student normally for 4 years. The average tenure of a faculty member is only 10 years; but an alumna is an alumna for the rest of her life."

-Carlyle Campbell, President of Meredith College
1946-1963

This mural has been created to celebrate and honor the alumnae of Meredith College. The idea of a mural for Park Center and the financial support were a gift from the Class of 1997. The aerial imagery of the campus, being a viewpoint that few ever see, is a visual metaphor for the numerous contributions and achievements of Meredith College students throughout its history. Historically women's efforts have often been undocumented, unheralded and even unnoticed; nevertheless, they are no less important and remarkable. I wanted to recognize and honor these women, not only in terms of their career accomplishments but also their volunteer service to organizations and family issues.

One hundred outstanding alumnae were chosen from nominees to represent all graduates and to coincide with the 1999 Centennial events celebrating the opening of Meredith College in 1899. The women honored on the mural and in the biographies represent only a small percentage of Meredith graduates who have made significant contributions to our communities. We have left room on the walls for the addition of more alumnae in the future.

The mural represents the feminine perspective on one symbolic level and recognition on another level. The subtle footprints throughout the mural represent all the students who have walked on the Meredith Campus for the past 100 years. They were imprinted by student assistants, alumnae faculty and staff members. The names of the 100 alumnae are interwoven within the campus imagery, just as every student becomes part of the fabric of the Meredith community, connecting past, present and future. One must make an effort to look beyond the surface imagery to see that this is actually a tapestry of "strong-willed, determined, intelligent women who had (and have) dreams, goals, and a fierce desire for education."¹

The chosen honorees include some alumnae who are well known at Meredith and many more who have been quietly making a difference in our world behind the scenes and without previous recognition. The alumnae selected have been involved in a wide spectrum of careers, volunteer work and religious service. We hope that the stories of these remarkable women, and those that will be added in the coming years, will serve as living examples of the unlimited possibilities open to all present and future students, as well as serve as visual reminders of the contributions of students who have come before.

Conceptually, the mural recognizes the influential and nurturing role that Meredith College plays in our lives by creating an educational experience founded on high standards of excellence within a caring environment. It is this campus community depicted in the mural imagery that brings us all together for a short time, and ultimately unites all alumnae forever, through one common educational heritage.

¹"We were...We are...We will be...", II. Meredith's Rich Legacy, by Jean Jackson, Meredith College Founders' Day Speech, 24 February 1997.

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Poo

Mural Credits

This mural is the result of the cooperative and interdisciplinary efforts of many people, including the whole Class of 1997 who contributed the idea of a Park Center Mural and the funding as their Class Gift to Meredith College. Students and staff from the disciplines of History, English, Women's Studies, Art History, Graphics and Studio Art have also contributed their talents and many hours of work.

Typography Assistants

Emilie Baker 1999
Kari Becker 1999
Madge Duffey 1999
Patricia Gruenbaum 1999
Amy Patterson 1999
Kristine Pelzer 1998
Rebecca Tinsley 1998
Tracy Vincent 2000

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Rebecca Renn 2000

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Ashlynn Browning 2000
Julianna Bunn 1999
Laura Burke 2000
Emily Cash 2001
Carrie Coffey 2001
Ashley Cooper 2001
Betty Crenshaw 1998
Karol Diaz 2000
Vivian Furini 2000
Nana Hendricks 1999
Katherine Jones 2001
Beth Kendall 1999
Lacey Keen 2001
Janae Lehto 1998
Jenny McWilliams 2000
Jennifer Patterson
Patricia Rolfson
Amanda Sullivan 1998
Sue Todd 1959

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Terence FitzSimons
Framework:

Printing

AlphaGraphic

Co-organizers and
originators of the idea
for the Park Center Mural

Collyn Evans 1997
Carrie Snider 1997

Mural Artist, Organizer and Coordinator

Linda Poole FitzSimons, Class of 1973

Footprints on Mural

Dianne Andrews 1995 Maureen Kacsur Banker 1979 Vanessa Barnes 1988
Amity Brown 1993 Ashlynn Browning 2000 Laura Burke 2000 Janet Cherry 1979
Margaret Clary 1987 Sandra Close 1986 Robin Colby 1981 Betty Crenshaw 1998
Nina Ashley Farmer 1999 Linda FitzSimons 1973 Holly Frigan 1998 Sandra Hanner 1986
Jean Jackson 1975 Donna Jolly 1991 Cleto Johnson 1987 Sue Ennis Kearney 1964
Beth Kendall 1999 Teresa Latham 1995 Alma Lane Lee 1988 Mara Lewis 1998
Rose Jones Lippard 1973 Jenny McWilliams 2000 Karen Mitchell 1992
Lisa Fitzsimmons Pearce 1990 Meredith Pittman 1999 Mary Anne Reese 1982
Rebecca Renn 2000 Cathy B. Rodgers 1976 Regina Rowland 1991 Betsy Stewart 1996
Amanda Sullivan 1998 Sue Todd 1959 Alyce Turner 1956 Betty Webb 1967



Wilde

Irene Haire Wilde

*Earth Memory: The wrinkled earth does not forget;/
From catacombs of memory/Resounding with
maternal lore/Alert, she hears perpetually/The
cry of her firstborn,/And holds within her ancient
heart/The sigil of identity/That every son has
worn/Undaunted by death's parodigm,/She
guards with mother zeal the track/Each little
shoe has left on time.*

The above lines play out the theme of the Park Center Mural. Written by Irene Haire Wilde in 1938, the poet's feminine image evokes a world that is bound by tradition and history — the idea that each of us, as daughters, lives on in our own individuality, even after our time on earth is spent. No act is insignificant. Each life has a special mark on time.

Ms. Wilde grew up in Wadesboro, NC, and was one of the earliest graduates of Meredith College. She went on to become a librarian in a Los Angeles high school and a reporter with the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She achieved numerous literary prizes and contributed to the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, many magazines, anthologies and journals. Her collections include *Driftwood Fires* and *Fire Against the Sky*.

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Haire



Denmark

Annie Dove Denmark

Dr. Denmark's motto in her senior yearbook was "To reach high, but aim higher." She truly demonstrated this. Annie was the first woman to be elected the head of a college in South Carolina and one of the first female college presidents in the country. Her 26-year term as president of Anderson College included the Great Depression years, during which she saved the college from financial collapse. She had such faith in the college that, at the close of the 1931-32 session, all bills had been paid and there was a surplus in the bank amounting to slightly more than \$5,000 to apply to the school's bills. As a result of the steady progress made during her administration, the college was able to pay off a long-standing debt in May 1938, marking the beginning of a new era for the institution. People in South Carolina credit Denmark with saving Anderson College from financial ruin after assuming its presidency on New Year's Day, 1928.

Annie truly valued the ideals of a liberal arts education, Christian principles and the arts. To that end she worked diligently. Under her prudent and skillful guidance, Anderson College, now a junior college, has been brought out of dark uncertainty into the light of a new day.

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DOVE



Lane

Bessie Evans Lane

Dr. Lane was "small and dainty" and in her contacts with students had a "quiet, reassuring manner."

Not only was she an excellent doctor, but also a wise counselor and good friend. For 16 years, she guarded the health of all Meredith students, and with the aid of the physical education department, administered a constructive health program on campus. When she decided to limit her practice and leave Raleigh, it was with regret that her many Meredith friends saw her depart. During the intervening years, until her health failed, she busied herself in her life's calling, that of healing the sick and making life brighter for those in her care.

Elizabeth James Datterer (1930), also a physician, said, "Although Dr. Lane came to Meredith after my time as a student, I knew her for her compassion and genuine love for her fellow man. When I was taking the North Carolina Board, it was Dr. Lane who invited all of the women applicants to have lunch with her. She knew well the tension we were feeling, and she was doing just a little something to relieve that tension. I shall never forget that kindness. Years later, when she was contemplating retirement, my husband and I, who were in our prime, had an occasion to talk with her. At this time we felt her compassion for her patients who were her friends. She was worrying about those patients, for they had grown old with her and she knew so much about them. She worried, too, because she knew that many could not afford their needed medicines and hospital treatment. Little did she dream that Medicare was just around the corner."

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Evans

Grimmer

Mae Frances Grimmer



Miss Grimmer graduated from Meredith in 1913 with a certificate in music, a subject she taught at the College from 1916-1920, and in 1941, with a bachelor's degree in history. Appointed executive secretary of the Alumnae Association in 1928, she remained in that position until she retired in 1964. Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson, in her History of Meredith College, credits Miss Grimmer with the lion's share of praise for the accomplishments of the Alumnae Association during her years as director: *The Alumnae Magazine*, the annual seminars, organization of alumnae chapters, establishment of the Loyalty Fund, the Granddaughters' Club, erection of the Alumnae House (now called the Mae Grimmer House), and the extensive drive for financial support for alumnae. All of these and countless smaller benefits have come about largely because Mae Grimmer worked and pushed so hard.

In 1964, the Wake County Chapter of the Alumnae Association established a Mae Grimmer Scholarship, proceeds of which are awarded to students who commute to Meredith. For 54 years, Miss Grimmer's life and labors were centered at Meredith College. Generation after generation of college women came back from time to time to find her warm welcoming smile and her quick effort to make them feel at home again. Mae Grimmer's vision for the college has enabled many women to share in her legacy of achievement.

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Grimmer



Harris

Bernice Kelly Harris

Ever since childhood, Bernice Kelly Harris thought of herself as a writer. Her early dreams of penning novels and plays were truly realized as she became one of the most gifted navelists in the state. Since her graduation from Meredith in 1913, she published Purslane in 1939, the first publication of the University of North Carolina Press and first recipient of the Mayflower Cup. Her other novels include Portulaca, Sweet Beulah Land, Sage Quarter, Janey Jeems, Hearthstones and Wild Cherry Road. She also wrote Folk Plays of Eastern North Carolina and Southern Savory, her autobiography, as well as numerous newspaper and magazine articles.

Bernice's career was filled with awards and titles including winner of the Master Playwright Award, leader of the North Carolina Writer's Conference and first woman president of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Society.

Bernice was also a brilliant educator, teaching at the high school level for 11 years and then later at Chowan College. She organized the Roanoke-Chowan Writers' Organization and the Northampton Players, writing and directing theater productions that toured throughout the state. Bernice's literary and personal interests were in people. Her works reflected her deep appreciation and respect for all persons no matter what their station. Critics compared her works to Thomas Wolfe's and she was referred to as the "Grand Dame" of North Carolina literature. In her usual modest way, Bernice would probably be surprised by all the accolades. As she said, "Everyone has a story to tell. Look for that story and record it! In every experience you can find the beauty of the human spirit." In 1998, she was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame.

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Kelly



Harriet

Harriet Laura Herring

Harriet Herring was a professor emerita of sociology and, for more than 40 years, a member of the Institute for Research in Social Science. She was educated at Meredith, Radcliffe, and Bryn Mawr. She held executive positions at three textile mills before joining the UNC-Chapel Hill faculty in 1925.

As Personnel Director of Carolina Cotton and Woolen Mills in Spray, NC, she established the first comprehensive cotton mill employee welfare system in the South. Herring was the world's foremost authority on the social life of southern mill villages. Her many publications included the books Welfare Work in Mill Villages, Southern Industry and Regional Development, and The Passing of the Mill Village. To her writings and teaching Harriet Laura Herring brought erudition, a strong analytic mind, and a direct style that allows us to see, feel and experience life in those villages.

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Herring



FUTRELL

Louise Futrell

Affectionately called "Mother Superior" by students and teachers alike, 1914 Meredith graduate Louise Futrell is best known for founding the Summit School in Winston-Salem. A natural teacher with a unique ability to inspire, Louise was a pioneer in the field of education. In 1933, while America was in the throes of the Great Depression, public schools were overcrowded and underfunded; dissatisfaction was rampant. Asked to meet the demand for a private school, Louise moved to Winston-Salem and founded the Summit School. What began in her sister's house with 18 children and three teachers has flourished into a large private school with an excellent reputation for innovative teaching techniques and an unstructured atmosphere.

Louise was the backbone of the school all her life. After 22 years as principal, she took a year off to study teaching techniques with Dr. June Orton, a specialist in learning disabilities. She returned to the school and established a special education program there. Summit's headmaster, Douglas Lewis described Louise's life as "one spent in teaching — and it was a rich one for the people she taught." Louise enriched many lives, as evidenced by her being named the Alumna of the Year in 1976 at Meredith and an honorary degree awarded to her by Wake Forest.

1914

Futrell



Johnson

Mary Lynch Johnson

In the past, one of the senior superlatives listed in the yearbook was "Miss Meredith." If there was one person who could be called the "Miss Meredith" for all time, that person would be Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson. She began her studies at Meredith in 1909, when she entered the Meredith Academy as a sixth-grader. She graduated in 1917, began teaching in the English department in 1918 and became department chair in 1952. She taught at Meredith until her retirement in 1969, leaving only to earn her M.A. from Columbo University and her Ph.D. from Cornell University. Her presence was felt on the Meredith campus in many ways. Her well-known love of cats, her red academic regalia and her strong coffee served at English Club meetings are all part of many Meredith memories. She said that it always surprised her how little water it took to make a cup of coffee — and desilvered spoons in the Joyner lounge were certainly testimony to that.

Dr. Johnson loved words and few of her speeches or essays were without at least one explanation of word origin. She authored A History of Meredith College in 1956 and published a second edition in 1972. These histories reflect her scholarly abilities in research and writing but, more importantly, give us insight to her sense of humor. She presented Meredith, faibles and all, in a book that is a "good read" for anyone. After retirement, she served as college historian and taught in the Department of Continuing Education. Some of her off-campus activities included serving as trustee of the Carver School of Missions and Social Work in Louisville, Kentucky and of Shaw University in Raleigh. She was named Volunteer of the Year in 1980 as a result of her 13 years of volunteer work at the Mayview Convalescent Center in Raleigh.

In 1984, the year of her death, the Mary Lynch Johnson Chair of English was established at Meredith College. It is clear that Meredith was as dear to her as she was to the college. One of the essays written for *Meredith*, the college magazine, she said, "I have had a long and happy life, and Meredith has given me a great part of that happiness."

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Johnson



VANN

Elizabeth Roger Vann

Dr. Elizabeth Vann's motto in her graduating yearbook was "Her life had many a hope & aim." She was the head of the psychiatric department at one of the world's leading mental institutions, St. Elizabeth's Psychiatric Hospital, for 38 years. An interviewer had once commented to her on the immense courage it must have taken to enter a profession so hostile to women. But Dr. Vann felt that her accomplishment was slight compared to what her father had overcome in his life. As a child, her father, Richard Tilman Vann, a minister and former president of Meredith College (1900-1915), had experienced a farming accident in a cane mill which left him without both arms below his elbows. He overcame incredible obstacles all his life, never letting anything stop him. He was an inspiration to everyone who knew him, especially his daughter.

Dr. Vann's primary goal was to help others. During her work at St. Elizabeth's, she shared the responsibility for the treatment of the poet Ezra Pound, who was confined to the hospital from 1945 to 1958.

Her interests were not only in medicine. She worked to keep the natural environment unspoiled in the Potomac area of Washington D.C., planting over 100 varieties of azaleas and trees not native to that area.

The Vann family put extreme importance on the education of women. While her father was President of Meredith College, they converted their family home in downtown Raleigh into a women's resource center. Throughout her life, Dr. Vann continued the commitment to helping those in need established by her inspirational father.

1917

Vann



Siddell

Hallie Simpkins Siddell

Hollie Siddell loved music and for much of her life dreamt of one day studying it. At age 26, she began voice lessons under the direction of a local teacher. In three years, she had voice students of her own. Feeling it necessary to further her study, she planned two-week "vacation trips" which were actually concentrated studies. In the mornings she worked with Mario Kurenko, "The Russian Nightingale," and in the afternoons under Arthur Phillips of Carnegie Hall. It wasn't long before the coloratura soprano realized her ambition when she received an offer from the Metropolitan.

Hollie studied art at Meredith for five years. Under Ida Poteat's instruction, she was warned that she might be confined to painting still lifes for two years, but within six months she was granted permission to use live models. She later became a photographer and portrait painter in Raleigh. She painted and photographed numerous Carolina businessmen and women, brides and children, who spread her reputation up and down the Atlantic seaboard. Many of her subjects returned with their children and grandchildren for portraits. Mrs. Siddell's work earned her one of the highest laurels in the photography world: The Professional Photographers of America's Honorary Master of Photography. Hallie and her husband collaboratively owned Siddell Studios, a photography studio in Raleigh, for many years.

1918

Simpkins



Laybourne

Roxie Collie Laybourne

Roxie Laybourne has probably heard a thousand times that her work is "for the birds." However, since Laybourne is the leading ornithologist in her field, this is indeed the case. Laybourne has spent nearly three decades studying feathers and has become the nation's foremost feather identifier. She graduated from Meredith in 1932, but her love of nature started early in Farmville, North Carolina. It was there she began to explore the many fields and woods that surrounded her. Her phenomenal ability to identify practically any feather in the world has allowed her to solve murder mysteries, theft cases, general biological mysteries, and save human lives. What led Laybourne to study feathers is also what led her to save lives.

In 1960 a jet crash killed 62 people after hitting a flock of starlings; Laybourne was put on the case to identify the type of bird that had gotten caught in the engine and caused the tragedy. Since then she has helped manufacturers design engines that will withstand the impact of birds whose migration patterns cross flight patterns.

Laybourne also helped to preserve the life of the whooping crane by inventing an instrument capable of identifying the bird's sex so ornithologists could put the "right" birds together for mating. Today, when Laybourne is not studying the over one half million bird specimens at the Smithsonian Institution, teaching classes on skinning, and tracing eagle poachers, she writes. Her papers and articles allow her to share the enormous quantity and specificity of her fascinating career.

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Collie



Dawkins

Edna Frances Dawkins

A great understatement would be to say that Edna Frances Dawkins has been busy since graduating Meredith College in 1937. After receiving her master's degree in personnel administration she came back to her alma mater for eight years to serve as the Assistant to Dean of Women. Even after she left the campus to work for the foreign mission board, Edna helped recruit students for Meredith locally, nationally and internationally. She has also served for 35 years on the Foreign Mission Board after feeling a call to be a missionary in China as a young woman.

From 1947-1972, Mrs. Dawkins served as the Associate Secretary for Personnel and interviewed several thousand candidates for the Foreign Mission service. She evaluated the candidates and decided who was appropriate for mission work. She has never been bothered by the reputation that she received in the beginning as a "hard" personnel secretary. She rarely hesitated to discourage a mission volunteer that she felt lacked qualifications.

Around the office she earned the title of a "computer with compassion" since she knew practically the entire postwar generation of foreign missionaries. Mrs. Dawkins is also known as the woman who was nearly the single driving force behind the construction of the Foreign Mission Fellowship. This network of retired and former missionaries and returned journeymen allows these men and women to become an informal "think tank" for mission support back in the United States. The organization also, with Edna's influence, helped change the stereotype that resigned missionaries were "quitters."

Even though she has retired from the Foreign Mission Board, Mrs. Dawkins has remained active in her local church and community. In 1982, the former missionary Paul Bell said, "I hope the Foreign Mission Board can hire 20 people to do what she has done."

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Dawkins



JOSEY

Mary Bland Josey

Many Meredith angels would never have attended Meredith if there had not been a Mary Bland Josey. Many can remember the first sight of her on College Day at high school: bright blue eyes sparkling with intelligence, her enthusiasm and, of course, that red hair. She energized the whole room and when she finished talking about Meredith, the audience was convinced there wasn't a better place on earth to go to college. Of course, she was in a position to know since she herself had come to Meredith and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree *magna cum laude* in 1951 with a major in mathematics and related fields in religion and education.

After finishing at Meredith, Mary Bland received a Rotary International Fellowship to study a year at the University of Reading in England. In 1953 she accepted the position of assistant director of public relations at Meredith to travel and spread the word about her alma mater. In 1965 she assumed the duties of registrar of the college and in 1966 was asked to develop the school's first separate admissions office. By 1968 she had relinquished the registrar's role to give her full attention to admissions and financial assistance, which was part of the admissions office.

In addition to her many responsibilities on campus, Mary Bland found time to complete a master's degree in higher education at North Carolina State University, serve on and chair numerous committees of professional organizations and, not the least, serve as a mentor par excellence for the many staff members who worked for her. They fondly remember her handwriting (a challenge), her office sweater (complete with holes and tissues in the sleeves), her compassion (for students, colleagues, family and friends) and her total commitment to excellence in all she undertook.

After 30 years at Meredith College, Mary Bland served the education community for nine more years as communications coordinator at College Foundation, Inc. In 1995, she threw herself into a retirement schedule of study, travel and church activities that proved as vigorous as that of her work years. Always remembering friends and family, Mary Bland's thoughtfulness and genuine interest continuously enrich the lives of all with whom she interacts and make her an extraordinary Meredith angel.

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Josey



SWANSEA

Charleen Swansea

On first meeting this energetic woman, one is struck by her vitality and passion. Charleen Swansea, poet, educator, and publisher, makes an immediate impression on all. Known throughout North Carolina as the founder of the *Red Clay Reader*, she has published the works of Alice Walker, Fred Chappell and Reynolds Price. She is the recipient of the 1984 Sam Ragan Award for Outstanding Contribution to Cultural Arts in North Carolina and cites an internship with Ezra Pound in the 1950s as inspiration for her work. She met Pound at St. Elizabeth's Hospital where she convinced his nurses that she was his daughter so they would let her into his room. She is featured in the documentary "Sherman's March" by Ross McElwee, who thought that she was such an interesting personality that he went on to write and produce "Charleen," a film about just her.

Born in Charlotte, Charleen was raised in a sheltered Baptist family in which women were not given opportunities to pursue education. However, she found her way to Meredith where professors took her under their wing. Dr. Helen Price invited Charleen to attend a Quaker meeting and showed her a kind of spirituality that took root in her and continued for the next 30 years. Dr. Norma Rase, who understood her mischievousness, kept a picture of her "adopted daughter" at her bedside until her death. Dr. Julie Harris and Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson each gave lots of love and second chances to Charleen. These four women taught her how to study and provided funds for her to go on to graduate school when her family refused. These women saw Charleen graduate with a degree in Latin and Education in 1954. To them she is forever grateful.

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Swansea



Grealish

Jeanne Grealish

The *New Haven Register* once said about Jeanne Grealish, "whatever she sings, wherever she sings it, glowing reviews follow." As a mezzo-soprano, Jeanne has received those "glowing reviews" from renowned music centers located in such places as Vienna, Zurich, Boston, Chicago, and New York. She has performed 26 operatic and 37 oratorio roles as well as many solo recitals, some of which were performed with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra and pianist Jane Snow.

Jeanne's inspiration for her work came from Meredith College, from which she graduated in 1957 with a degree in music and voice. She found "personal security" from her years at Meredith as well as "guidance and influence" from Beatrice Donley, her teacher and mentor during those years. Although she went on to earn an A.D. at the New England Conservatory of Music, Jeanne attributes her successful career as a singer to the education she received at Meredith.

While singing is Jeanne's first love, she has not limited her career to it. She has also done musicological research in vocal music, given lectures, and published accredited writings. She has taught classes at universities across the country, created a private voice studio of her own, and is recognized as a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music by the National Teacher's Association. Through all Jeanne's accomplishments, she is most proud of her ability to give to young people the same guidance and inspiration she received during her school years. Jeanne Grealish is an impressive asset to the ranks of Meredith's Outstanding Alumnae.

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Grealish



BARBARA ALLEN

Barbara Allen

Twenty-one years after Barbara Allen graduated from Meredith with a degree in Art Education, a colleague said of her, "Her stately grace and beauty of character present a model for all who come to her to learn the meaning and use of art. Truth and beauty come to her, illuminate her face and form, shine in her classroom, and spill over into the lives of her students and colleagues... Somehow she can take the common clay of humanity and mold it into a vessel both useful and beautiful."

It is doubtful that Barbara could have imagined such high praise when, fresh out of college, she became Wake County Public Schools' first full-time art educator. It was a daunting task. With no defined curriculum, no supervisor and no permanent facilities, she went from school to school teaching students in elementary grades, middle school and high school. Many times there was not even running water as she met with students in basement storage areas or on risers in a chorus room.

What she lacked in facilities and equipment, Barbara made up for in enthusiasm, knowledge of her subject and love for the young people whom she was teaching. In those early months, as Barbara simultaneously formulated art curricula for all three levels, she became increasingly captivated by her students' efforts to explore their own creativity. "In retrospect," Barbara says, "I believe that the absence of equipment, facilities and leadership on the supervisory level required such a degree of self-discipline and resourcefulness on my part that I was a better teacher for having [had] such a frugal experience."

From her own "frugal experiences" have come many years of providing vital educational experiences to others, including supervising student teachers, many of whom were from Meredith. She also holds many extra-curricular accomplishments. These include co-authoring the current Wake County art curriculum and the teaching scholars program; designing and writing the Enloe High School magnet program; and designing the "Litter Critter" for Cary clean-up campaigns, among many others. She has received numerous awards and recognitions such as being named North Carolina Art Educator of the Year in 1991. She has always shown a willingness to accept tasks outside the classroom and has been invited to make presentations at both state and national art education conferences.

Yet all of the awards, honors, and recognitions from peers and colleagues have come because of how she envisions and implements her tasks in the role of teacher. By inspiring young people to be the best that they can be and to explore their own creativity and capabilities, she truly represents the excellence in education that we all dream of for our children.

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Allen



Davis

Gwendolyn Picklesimer Davis

From humble beginnings on a farm near Brevard, North Carolina, Gwendolyn P. Davis came to Meredith College as the only member of her immediate family to ever attend college. She graduated *cum laude* in business, and later served for seven years as the Chief Accountant at Meredith. In 1971, she was recruited by College Foundation, Inc., a private, non-profit organization that administers college loans in NC. She took a cut in salary to begin working as a loan officer for the small lending institution. The company flourished, and 25 years later, with nearly 200 employees administering more than 400 million dollars in student loans, Gwen Davis became the President and CEO of College Foundation, Inc.

"There are so many outstanding young people whose talents and skills could be of benefit to their communities if we could only find ways to provide an education that shows them how to put their talents to use," Davis said. "The College Foundation is the vehicle that North Carolina is using to bring the student and the educational opportunity together."

Although immersed in the demanding responsibilities of her job, Gwen also avidly supports the arts, especially the North Carolina Symphony, and is an active supporter of the North Carolina Historic Preservation Foundation.

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Picklesimer

simmons

Margaret Rymer Simmons



Margaret Rymer Simmons is noted as one of the top pianists from North Carolina. She took her first degree in music from Meredith, where she got her start as an ensemble performer. Margaret feels that much of a student's work as a music major is one-on-one with the faculty. While the entire music faculty played a large role in her education, Beatrice Danley was by far the most influential. She says Beatrice challenged her musically and academically, encouraging her to pursue a career as a coach and accompanist before it was a realistic opportunity in academia. This encouragement led her to Florida State University, where she received her master's degree in music and on to the University of Illinois, where she was one of the first to receive a degree in accompaniment.

Margaret Simmons' background at Meredith led her into a lifetime of achievement. She is known in eastern NC through her appearances as an accompanist and director of the Campbell College Girls Ensemble, which she organized in 1968. Margaret has appeared with many talented musicians including Boyd Mackus in 1976 and the Klorion Trio in 1985. She has played for governors' inaugurations, Senator Paul Simon's retirement tribute, and auditions at the Met, the Chicago Lyric and other opera houses as a member of three different chamber groups. Margaret has also done summer studies with John Wustman, and was an accompanist for Pavaratti. A most memorable event was when she played a concert of the music of the famous Polish composer Witold Lutoslawski, who was in the audience. During intermission, Margaret found out that it was his birthday so as an encore she played Happy Birthday with flourishes.

In Margaret's work, she enjoys adding variety. Often her emphasis is on jazz, pop and jazz-rock. She is very proud of being able to maintain a career as a teacher and performer. Margaret is currently an Assistant Professor of Music at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, having been on the faculty there since 1977. She teaches freshman theory and accompaniment to graduates and undergraduates. She is also the vocal coach and serves as coordinator for the voice area.

Meredith gave Margaret the opportunity to play for many singers, the chorus and the ensemble. Through that she found a love for the vocal literature that shaped her career. Margaret reflects on the college as a place that gave her a confidence with strong academic training, performance opportunities and leadership experiences in student government. Her advice to women attending Meredith: "take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way."

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Rymer



Webb

Betty Webb

To know Dr. Betty Webb of Meredith's English Department is to know a woman of honor, intellect, ability, service and excellence.

As a student at Meredith College, Betty studied under the English department's "Big Three" (Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson, Dr. Ione Knight, and Dr. Norma Rose). From these three wise women of Meredith, as well as others, Betty received knowledge far more encompassing than simply information about a specific subject. She relates that they taught her of honor, and the paucity of life without it; they taught her of excellence and the value of rechecking everything for potential errors; and they taught her to shore the bounty of her life with others through service.

Receiving her degree from Meredith and later obtaining her Ph.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill, Betty eventually returned to Meredith to share her intellectual gifts with others.

While she served as its head, the English department's stobility was strengthened considerably. Through Dr. Webb's efforts, the department's number of tenured faculty members grew from one to six.

She also established and directed Meredith Abroad, the college's international studies program. "Studying abroad is a dramatically life-changing event," she says. Among her best memories are the final nights of the Meredith Abroad trips and "hearing students recount the marvelous experiences they've had, sights they've seen [and] understanding they've acquired."

Although student/teacher relationships have undergone a transformation in the years between Betty Webb's time as a student and as a teacher, the legacy remains. She teaches as she herself was taught. Giving students the opportunity to develop both the mind and character is her gift, which continues to serve our community.

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Webb



MCENERY

Cindy Griffith McEnery

During her years as a Meredith College student, Cindy Griffith McEnery exhibited outstanding leadership ability. This ability was recognized after she graduated, when, at the age of 22, she was elected to the Meredith Board of Trustees, becoming one of the youngest college trustees in the country. In more recent years, Cindy has served as president of the Alumnae Association and received the Distinguished Alumnae Award for 1997.

Cindy's professional career has taken her from positions in banking to her position with IBM, as Client Executive for all universities and colleges in North Carolina. In this position, she is responsible for the creation and execution of many marketing programs within higher education. Cindy was responsible for the Thinkpod Program at Wake Forest, which is IBM's international model of mobile computing.

Her fellow alumnae say that "Cindy is an excellent example of a woman who handles a great deal with grace." Cindy combines her career with her husband and two children, who are the center of her life. She exemplifies the Meredith ideals of talent, hard work, and a sense of balance in all things.

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Griffith



Bryan

Anne Bryan

Anne Bryan graduated from Meredith College in 1971 and went on to take her Master of Arts from Duke University. She is the co-founder and president (since 1994) of Exploris, the nation's first global learning center serving to encourage young people how to relate to and understand an ever-changing and increasingly interconnected world. She describes Exploris as "a window on the world and a door to the 21st century."

Anne's career has been dedicated to helping children. Prior to her work with Exploris, she served on the Governor's Crime Commission as juvenile justice director and deputy director, and with the state education agency as director of dropout prevention and chief of elementary education. She remembers one of her favorite experiences in connection with Meredith College, when she spoke for the Lillian Wallace Parker Endowment just prior to President Jimmy Carter's address. After she was done, he leaned over and commended her speech; high praise from one of her most admired role models.

Bryan balances her busy career with a family as well. She and her husband and two daughters enjoy traveling, reading, hiking, and sailing together. Anne Bryan credits her liberal arts education at Meredith with providing her a sense of empowerment and self-confidence, as well as enabling her to think critically and speak out as a leader.

1971

Bryan



Jackson

Jean Jackson

Dr. Jean Jackson is a true Meredith dynamo. Her dedication to Meredith College began as a student here in 1971 and has not let up since. In her student years at Meredith, she served diligently in the positions of freshman class president and in her senior year as SGA president and a member of both Kappa Nu Sigma and Silver Shield. She recalls "seeing women do every type of job at Meredith from the least noticed to the most prominent." This reaffirmed her belief that women can accomplish anything they set out to do. Jean majored in English and religion and was greatly influenced by special teachers such as Dr. Norma Rose, Dr. Ione Knight, Dr. Roger Crook, and Dr. Allan Burris. In 1983, after receiving her Ph.D. in English at the University of Illinois, she returned to Meredith to become an influential professor in her own right. Her many duties at Meredith have included teaching English, directing a new program in professional communications, heading the faculty productions of *Alice in Wonderland*, giving speeches as a Meredith representative, and serving as the vice-president for Student Development. Jackson's endless energy, sense of humor and dedication to serving the college have earned her the Distinguished Alumnae Award as well as the love and respect of thousands of students. She points out that giving the commencement address at Meredith in 1993 was one of the best experiences of her life, and the advice she gives to women attending Meredith now is to "live passionately, study hard, enjoy your friends, and understand what is important to your life."

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Jackson



Williford

Jo Anne Williford

Since presiding over her senior class in 1975, Jo Ann Williford has had many exciting experiences. Her career in public history has allowed her to help edit an outline of North Carolina history that has been used as a teaching guide in the public schools. She was also responsible for the research and preparation involved in the Town of Cameron's nomination for the National Register. Throughout her nine years as education director at the State Capital, Ms. Williford, along with assistants and volunteers, provided for the more than 100,000 people visiting each year. She was recently appointed state coordinator for the National History Day, a program for sixth- through twelfth-grade students that encourages the study of history through history fairs. When asked what her most memorable event related to her career has been, she responded that it was when she "gave a tour of the Capital to Mrs. Barbara Bush." She added, "One of the most memorable incidents was also when I assisted with the planning and execution of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capital grounds. Seeing those veterans finally achieve some degree of closure was a very moving and emotional experience."

Ms. Williford has travelled to many places, herding cattle in Wyoming and adventuring through the Australian outback. She has even sung at Carnegie Hall, but her ties to the community keep Ms. Williford close to home. She currently serves on the board of deacons at her church, teaches Sunday school and plays in the church orchestra. Jo Ann says that "being at a women's college allowed me to grow and develop in ways that I never would have in a co-educational setting. It certainly allowed me an opportunity to develop skills." Dr. Sarah Lemman, history professor, proved to be influential in Ms. Williford's career. Jo Ann says that Dr. Lemman's "enthusiasm for history was contagious" and that "the love of history that she instilled in me has never left, and I have wanted to share it with others through public history in the same way she shared it with me in academia." Her advice to Meredith women: "Cultivate and cherish the community that you have there and don't let it go after you graduate. My Meredith classmates are still my most precious friends, and time and distance have not diminished those special relationships."

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Williford



Thanhauser

Lisa Burns Thanhauser

Lisa Burns Thanhauser graduated in 1986 and has become a successful woman in all respects of her life. Previously an interior designer and regional space planner for Northern Telecom, she now operates a very successful office and interior design firm. She attributes much of this success to Meredith College.

By attending an all-female university she was able to focus on how to better herself in a "man's world." She gives a lot of credit to the guidance and support that she received from the faculty. They enabled her to be more prepared and confident in her life and work in general. She also appreciates the inspiration that came from Dr. Ellen Goode. She has not forgotten Meredith College; she often leads seminars in the interior design department. She even organized the very active Meredith Alumnae Chapter of Interior Designers. She also gives speeches and helps with classes. Her career is not her only priority in life. Being a single mother, Lisa has learned to balance a demanding career and a family.

Lisa Thanhauser displays the goals and integrity of Meredith College. She continues to be a strong mentor to students as she is a prime example of what a Meredith alumna can accomplish.

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Burns



Nicholson

Rachel Nicholson

Rachel Nicholson has always had a strong interest in the promotion of the arts. Her involvement in the community has reflected this attitude. As a student, Rachel worked with vocal coaches at St. Mary's College and NC Central University. She spent ten seasons with the Raleigh Oratorio Society, serving as soprano soloist for four seasons. She also sang with the North Carolina Bach Festival Choir as well as several church choirs.

It was in the 1980's that her artistic focus switched to the visual arts. She began to work on a fiber process called "hand-made felt." Some of her early pieces ended up in a local gallery. Eventually, she decided on coming to Meredith to pursue her lifelong dream of completing a college degree. She considers the education received here to be of exceptional quality. The Art History classes taught by Blue Greenberg were a powerful influence in her understanding of the development of art. Inspired by Maureen Banker, Rachel chose printmaking for her studio concentration.

Rachel received an unexpected honor when, in January of 1998, she had the opportunity to show her work as part of the Critics Choice Series at the Duke University Museum of Art. Another solo exhibition ran concurrently at Meredith College where her work was shown as a part of the Alumnae Solo Exhibition Series.

Rachel encourages Meredith students to take full advantage of the facilities and enriching support provided by the school: "Meredith is a wonderful community to sharpen the skills needed for survival in the real world while one is still in a supportive, yet challenging, environment."

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Nicholson

1902 Stephens

Sophie Lanneau was born on August 19, 1880 in Lexington, Missouri. When she was eight years old her father accepted a teaching position at Wake Forest University. Her childhood home is described as having "an atmosphere of refinement and Christian culture." Literature, music and the church were encouraged activities during her youth. It is not surprising that she took an education and missionary work as a career.

Since there was no high school for her to attend in Wake Forest, she received her education at the Franklin Female Seminary in Virginia. After graduating, she taught English and Latin there. She then returned home to study at the newly established Baptist Female University in Raleigh, now Meredith College. In 1902 she was among the first graduating class at Meredith with a Bachelor of Arts. On the day of this first graduation, the students organized the Alumnae Association and Sophie was elected president. From 1902 to 1903 she taught public school and then returned to Meredith to teach Latin and French for two years. She then attended the Women's Missionary Union Training School in Louisville, Kentucky, and during the following year taught school in Puerto Rico.

In 1907, the Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed her a missionary to China. Arriving there on November 19, 1907, Sophie designated that day as her Chinese birthday, which she continued to celebrate throughout her life with as much enthusiasm as her natural birthday. Once in Soochow, China, Sophie began learning Chinese and in 1911 she opened the Wei Ling Girl's Academy. She was the founder, principal and teacher of this academy, which took girls from kindergarten through high school. The Chinese found great respect for her scholarship in the Chinese language. In 1928, she relinquished the post of principal in favor of a Chinese successor, but continued as founder and teacher. In 1937, the war between China and Japan broke out and she was forced to take refuge in Shanghai, where she took on a temporary teaching position at the University. After being closed down for a year under Japanese occupation, Wei Ling Academy re-opened with three other Baptist schools. Sophie took back her post at Wei Ling and continued to teach English Literature at the University of Shanghai. During her 43 years in China she was also Deacon of a local church for 30 years. In 1942 the Japanese interned her and she was repatriated to the United States in 1943. Sophie did return to China from 1946 until 1950 when she retired under the regulations of the Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

In a speech honoring Sophie upon her return to Wake Forest, it was said, "Our village is blessed indeed in the prospective return of this consecrated Christian woman to her childhood home. May we be able to make her life radiant with peace and joy is the prayer of her many friends." At the age of 70, Sophie returned to Wake Forest and lived with her sisters until her death on June 4, 1963.

Sophie Stephens Lanneau

Lanneau



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Daniels

Madge Wescott Daniels Barber, daughter of John T. Daniels, the photographer famous for his historic photograph of the Wright brothers' first flight, herself went on to pursue many challenges. Graduating from Meredith College in 1920, she came away with the feeling that she could succeed and overcome any obstacle. Throughout her teaching career of 55 years and her employment with a travel agency, she brooded and enriched the lives of many students by traveling with them to Europe every summer for 25 years. Ms. Barber felt that a liberal arts education was extremely useful with her knowledge of foreign languages aiding in travels abroad. She said, "The value of travel is in the exchange of ideas. Nobody is insulated, no people have a corner on the facts." She established a scholarship at Meredith in memory of her parents, John T. and Amanda Wescott Daniels, in support and awareness of women's education and the Alumnae Association

Ms. Barber's advice to Meredith students was for them to "set their goals high and be willing to work hard to achieve them," a motto by which she herself lived.

Madge Wescott Daniels Barber

Barber



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Mercer

Many North Carolinian baby-boomers may remember the Little Jack Puppet Show which traveled to elementary schools throughout the state to teach children how to properly care for their teeth. This popular teaching aid was created by Carolyn Morton Mercer, an educational consultant for the NC State Board of Health from 1936 to 1962. Carolyn was widely known for her book, Teaching Mouth Health in North Carolina.

Carolyn was a pioneer for women in her civic life in a time when most women did not hold leadership positions. She was the first woman deacon of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, as well as the first lay member of the NC Dental Society. At Meredith, Carolyn served as president of the Alumnae Association, during which time she worked earnestly to build the Alumnae House.

After moving to Winston-Salem from Raleigh, Carolyn continued her enthusiastic dedication to children by teaching students with learning disabilities at the Orton Reading Center. Anne Kesler Shields, a well-known artist, fondly remembers her aunt for her cheerful personality and patience. She believes that "Carolyn Morton Mercer touched the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of children, through teaching in the classroom, writing educational material about dental health, and one-on-one teaching at the Orton Reading Center."

Carolyn Morton Mercer

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Weatherspoon

The Weatherspoon name should sound familiar to any Meredith student. Laura Weatherspoon literally earned a name for her family and herself when she secured funds for a new gymnasium, named in honor of her brother.

Laura's leadership abilities and fund-raising talent have gone beyond building a new gym for the college. She has made several lasting contributions toward the beauty of the campus through a generous donation of English ivy and boxwoods which were planted around the Alumnae House. She also raised money for planting nearly 100 trees in the Avenue of Oaks in 1973. She says, "I give to Meredith because I have an abiding faith in the students who are there at the present time and those of the years to come."

Laura has held many leadership positions since her graduation in 1927. She presided over the Alumnae Association, the North Carolina State University Women's Club, and the Raleigh Garden Club. She was awarded the Outstanding Alumnae Philanthropy Award from Meredith as well. A glance at the verdant ivy of the Alumnae House, the majestic rows of oaks, or the gym at the edge of campus will immediately remind Meredith students of the lasting contributions Laura Weatherspoon has made to her school.

Laura Weatherspoon Harrill

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Hoggard

"Anyone who knows Meredith knows Mabel Claire," a Raleigh reporter once declared of 1928 Meredith graduate Mabel Claire Hoggard Maddrey.

Mabel Claire has perfected the art of organizing, managing projects, and raising money; she calls herself a "professional volunteer." Soon after graduating, she was president of the Alumnae Association and led her class in securing funds to build Jones Chapel on campus. In 1955, Mrs. Maddrey became the first woman to serve on the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Since 1963, Mabel Claire has also raised money for hundreds of causes while serving as a member and as president of the Raleigh Women's Club.

Her involvement in the Women's Club led her into politics. She has applied her skills to various campaigns for the Democratic Party, including leading a group of female supporters for Al Gore's Presidential campaign of 1988. North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt, who includes Mabel Claire as his teacher and friend, dubs her "the grand matriarch of North Carolina politics." Her friends say, "Politicians ask Mabel Claire for advice, and the smart ones do what she tells them."

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Mabel Claire Hoggard Maddrey



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Cook

*Evening Star: So early setting for so bright
a star!/Meteor-like he came/And flashed
his brilliance all along the sky./Then
sank aflame./He left a trail of beauty
as he went./And all who saw his
light/Remembered that the brightest
stars are first/Claimed by the night.*

These delicate, beautiful lines are the work of Sarah Cook Rawley, a 1929 Meredith College graduate. This and numerous other whimsical, mystical poems are contained in her book *Impressions*, which won a North Carolina Poetry Award.

From her days as editor of the yearbook and role as class poet, Sarah always had a love of the arts. In addition to her poetry, for which she has won numerous county and state awards, Sarah painted and played the piano. To encourage more people to enjoy the arts as she did, Sarah founded the Fine Arts Council in High Point (now the High Point Arts Council). In addition, she established a creative writing award at Meredith named for her friend Marion Fisk Welch.

Sarah gave much back to her alma mater, and Meredith showered her with gratitude. She was given the Alumnae Award in 1978, and in 1982 she received the college's Founders' Award for Distinguished Service.

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Sarah Cook Rawley



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Turner

Most women who graduate from Meredith hope to at least have one career after they leave this beautiful campus. Those who are fortunate will even find a career they love and that will touch many people's lives in a special way. But after graduating from Meredith in 1933, Eliza Bingham established four careers that made dramatic impact on thousands of people's lives, especially children.

Eliza was first a teacher and then a remedial reading specialist. Throughout her life she has taught so many children to read that one pediatrician commented, "She has helped more children in the City of Greensboro than anyone else I know." For her teaching skills, she has received the Terry Sanford Award for Excellence and Creativity in Teaching and has also been designated as Outstanding Teacher in the United States. Both of these honors were awarded for her use of psychological testing to detect reading problems in children who needed remedial help.

Eliza was able to perform psychological testing with children because she also became trained as a certified clinical psychologist and a social worker. These two careers led her to study with the renowned psychologist Dr. Zygmunt Piotrowski. Eliza also used her psychology skills for correctional work in prisons and at one time was recognized as the only female psychologist approved to work with adult prisoners.

When not involved with her career, Eliza has devoted time in her community as well. She reactivated the Greensboro Meredith Alumnae Chapter and organized the Eden Preservation Society. Her giving of a scholarship, as well as a Chinese water color and mural to Meredith, in conjunction with her outstanding careers, have insured that Eliza Bingham will always have a special place in the history of this school.

Eliza Turner Bingham

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LEE

It is Meredith's hope that all women who leave the college will be educated and confident to become leaders in any field they so choose. Eliza Lee Haselden chose to become a leader in educating her nation and the entire world on race and human relations. Graduating from Meredith in 1935 with a degree in music, Eliza went on to become the Church Women United Metropolitan Program Director. This program was designed to educate church women on urban problems in order for them to construct projects to answer community problems.

In 1978 Eliza became director of the national "Urban Causeway" program, an effort to develop a communication network between church women and men aware of the crucial issues that cities face. Through Church Women United, Mrs. Haselden has not just attempted to unite the races, but also to unite the different denominations for fellowship and action. She has also served as chairperson of the Women's Human Relations Council, which initiated programs of study and action in the field of human relations and civil rights.

Since Mrs. Haselden has been so active in the cause of race and human relations she has served on numerous boards nationally and internationally as a delegate and participant to further her causes. For all of her years of hard work she has received numerous honors and been listed among *Who's Who* three times throughout her career. It is rare that a woman picks one cause for which to spend her life fighting. Mrs. Haselden not only picked the noble cause of equality, but also chose to educate and motivate others — particularly women — to become involved in the hopes that one day justice will serve not only a select few in this country, but all.

Eliza Lee Haselden

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Caudle

When Margaret Caudle graduated from Meredith in 1935 with degrees in both history and sociology, she was unaware that she would become a vital voice in the field of communications. This woman became responsible for one of the most important international communication systems in the United States.

In an effort to promote cultural education, Margaret developed a broadcast system out of San Antonio, TX on the US Information Agency's Voice of America. In some three dozen foreign countries, her program describes American life and culture.

She has dedicated her life to communications. She has been an active member in the national honorary fraternity for women in journalism and communication and served as president for the San Antonio chapter in 1963-64. During the same year she was also president of the San Antonio chapter of American Women in Radio and Television. She is even a lifetime honorary member of the San Antonio Association for the Blind. She was asked to serve on their Board of Directors after writing and producing a film to commemorate the Association's 25th Anniversary.

In addition to serving on numerous other boards and as a VOA correspondent in her spare time, she also managed to have a full-time career as an advertising executive. Since leaving Meredith, Margaret has been listed in *Who's Who of American Women* and in 1969 received an award from the San Antonio Advertising Club for "distinguished service to the advertising industry of San Antonio." She notes that although her view of the world was extremely limited from Meredith's campus in 1935, the professors helped guide her aspirations. Her hope for Meredith is that the faculty will continue to counsel students on the vast opportunities available to women.

Margaret Caudle Morrison

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Futrelle

Bert Futrelle Whitfield felt that Meredith College influenced her to be civic minded, loyal to co-workers and to greet everyone with kindness. This open-minded attitude led Bert down the road to many successes. She majored in elementary education with a minor in history in 1936. From there she taught elementary school and special reading until 1949.

After moving to Franklinton, Bert raised her family, taught school as a substitute teacher and involved herself in many aspects of her community. A most memorable and outstanding accomplishment for Bert is the Franklinton Women's Club, which she organized in 1954. She is proud that this club is still going strong today. As a member of the Women's Auxiliary to American Optometric Association, she served as its third, second and first vice president, and then as president. While serving as president, she was invited to the White House by Lady Bird Johnson for a luncheon in honor of women volunteers. Bert is also proud of her service as president of the Franklin County Senior Citizens Club and for her time as Mayor Protem on the Franklinton Town Board of Commissioners from 1977-85. The long list of accomplishments goes on to include her involvement with the Franklinton United Methodist Church, the Easter Seal Society and *The Franklin Times*, where she was a news correspondent for many years. Bert received an Appreciation Award from the Auxiliary to the North Carolina State Optometric Society in 1980 and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Franklin County Arts Council for the years 1995-96.

Meredith College taught Bert how to solve problems and cope with them on varied levels. She remembers her history professor, Dr. Alice Keith, as an inspiration. Bert feels that Meredith made her more confident. She says, "If it had not been for Meredith, I might not have accomplished what I have." Her advice to Meredith women: "Set goals to reach. Be broad-minded and consider both sides of a question. Think positively at all times."

Bertha "Bert" Futrelle Whitfield

Whitfield



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Calhoun

As a child, Effie held an intense interest in her surroundings. Everything in nature seemed to hold a profound artistic quality for her. As she grew, her artistic sensibilities increased and as she reached out into the world, those around her responded immediately to her effervescent personality. Her teachers in Kinston, NC realized her talents and helped to raise the money for Effie to pursue her dreams at Meredith. Once here, the art department devised an individual course of study for her special talent.

Effie's main love is in teaching. Early on she made the decision not to exhibit her paintings all over the world saying, "New York doesn't need another artist," but chose to stay close and influence students at the grass roots level. In 1969 she opened her own gallery "Eeii's Little Corner of The World." She has received many recognitions and awards including the Meredith Alumnae Award and the National Scholastic Magazine Award. But she is most well-known for her gallery, which has evolved into a rare place that houses a myriad of multi-media artists. People travel from all across the country to visit her place in Bellhaven, NC. Through her nurturing efforts, many talented artists have found their way. She says, "I see someone who has talent, is worthy, and I know that unless someone has faith in him or her they won't have the courage to go ahead."

Effie Ray Calhoun Bateman Goff

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Jackson

Physician, researcher, cancer educator and pioneer in oncology rehabilitation, Dr. Susan Jackson Melette has dedicated her life to improving the quality of life for cancer patients. With compassion and incredible empathy, Dr. Melette was a forerunner in the holistic approach to patient care. She has received numerous awards for her work in oncology and served vigorously on both state and national committees. Melette's true contribution lies in her unique capacity for touching the individual and instilling hope and understanding during difficult times. She broke through in the earlier days when cancer was stigmatized. She said, "Cancer patients very often feel that they have such a bad disease that they are in danger of being rejected. They have to be convinced that they are still lovable." Melette was known to make her hospital rounds late in the evening when she had time to sit and visit with her patients. Her faith during the demanding and often discouraging work buoyed her patients as well as others. An interest in poetry led her to write verses relating to this struggle. In her "Letter to a New Patient" she writes:

*Your battle is my own as well for you –
and those you love/A campaign worthy
of the best that all of us can give,/With
due humility of those who know/The
limits of their finite power, but are not
unaware/That each small particle of
light we have – is harbinger and proof/Of
greater Light awaiting us – to make
it/Visible.*

Attached to a copy of these lines is a memo to us: "On the Meredith Seal is the Latin word for light. It is for this we seek. We, as Meredith girls, are 'Daughters of Light.'"

Susan Jackson Melette

Melette



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Glover

Cleo Glover Perry's resumé reveals a woman who, as she took her diploma in 1945 with much personal and academic success, also took with her a promise — a commitment to stay closely associated with her alma mater. She made a clear choice to ensure that Meredith continues to inspire and develop future generations of young women.

Citing Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson, Dr. Keith and others as instrumental in the development of her confidence and leadership abilities, Cleo now goes on to help instill those qualities in others. She has served as Alumnae Association President, Director of Alumnae Affairs, chair for numerous committees, and has developed a scholarship fund. There is a garden honoring her name just outside of the Gaddy-Hamrick art building on campus.

In her 30-year career as a teacher, Cleo's commitment to supporting young people has continued to be a lifelong passion. She cites one of her most meaningful achievements as being the teacher of an International Science Fair winner. Clearly, her signature philosophy has been that every student, every task, every challenge is a personal one. A firm believer that Meredith College is a place that empowered her to "do more and do it better," Cleo's work is a lesson in giving.

With endless energy and motivation, Cleo Glover Perry embodies the tradition of giving back to the community — a spirit of service and generosity that asks for no reward. As in her role as a wonderful teacher, Cleo's payback, and ours, comes from seeing the success of the young women who follow in her footsteps.

Cleo Glover Perry

Perry



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Moore

Catherine Moore has devoted her entire career to opening students to the joy of literature and writing. After graduating with a major in Art and minor in English in 1950, Catherine decided to pursue her minor further into graduate school. She received her Ph.D. in English from the UNC-Chapel Hill, and soon after began teaching at NCSU, where she remained for 27 years.

Although Catherine taught all levels of English at NCSU, she took a special interest in the poor writing skills of the entering freshmen. She became the Co-director of Freshman English Composition and subsequently geared this curriculum to better develop the writing skills of new college students. She also spent countless hours tutoring frustrated students and guiding them through the learning process. It was for this dedication that Catherine received the Outstanding Teacher Award from NCSU, and the Distinguished Alumnae award from Meredith College in 1985.

Catherine has since retired from teaching, but remains active in a small country church near Pendleton, where she has been elected the church's first woman deacon. When asked what she was most proud of from her long career in teaching she responded, "I am most proud of the hundreds of students who left an imprint on my life and who now thrive and serve in their own worlds."

Catherine Elizabeth Moore

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Joyner

Marjorie Northrup graduated from Meredith in 1951. As she tells it, Meredith College was pivotal in her decision to work in the Civil Rights Movement. On a trip to a student meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, with black students from St. Augustine's College, the two groups of students could not stop to eat together or go to the bathroom together. Marjorie thought this was absurd and vowed to do something to change this injustice.

In the 1960's and 1970's she worked in Winston-Salem helping integrate restaurants, public swimming pools and parks. She directed dialogue groups involving 2,000 black and white parents to help peacefully integrate the public schools. Marjorie remembers this as an angry time. Even though her husband supported her work, he asked her not to go to jail because of the family's recent adoption of twins.

For her work in peacefully desegregating the public schools, she was one of the six people in the nation to receive an award from the National School Volunteer Association. In 1972, Marjorie became a volunteer at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and in 1979 was named Education Curator. She is currently the Assistant Director of Programs at the Reynolda House. She was named the Southeastern Art Museum Educator of the Year in 1986, which is a great honor in the profession.

Her work as Assistant Director at the Reynolda House involves a great deal of responsibility. A main focus for her has been ensuring that the museum reflects the growing diversity of the community. She envisions the space as a place for everyone to enjoy — for a cross-section of the community and not just the "elite." She continuously strives to make art interesting to everyone in the community and to get a wide variety of voices involved in the dynamic processes of art.

Marjorie Joyner Northrup

Northrup



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Fitzgerald

Sue Fitzgerald was not apprehensive about entering into the traditionally male-dominated Southern Baptist Ministry. A graduate of Meredith with a BA in religion, she went on to receive a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological Seminary in 1959. Sue became one of the first women ordained as a minister in the Southern Baptist denomination, receiving that honor from Mars Hill Baptist Church in 1973. Her career has certainly been a busy and productive one ranging from teaching religion in public school to coordinating the Center for Christian Education Ministries, a resource center for rural ministers. She has been an asset to the Baptist ministry and received many honors including the Women in Ministry Award of the Baptist State Convention in 1991. She was the first recipient of the Citations for Excellence in Christian Ministry from the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Wake Forest University presented Sue with an honorary Doctor of Divinity in 1992 for her excellence in her field.

However, the ministry has not been the only focus of Sue's life. She also helped establish a school in Mars Hill, NC for handicapped children at a time when the state's public schools would not accept them. She receives great joy knowing that the school has helped many handicapped children grow into capable adults. The school has become a workshop center for handicapped adults.

For Sue Fitzgerald's courage, hard work, and commitment to the community and the Southern Baptist Ministry, she serves as a role model for all women who have a desire to spread the Word of God through their actions as well as their words.

Sue Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald



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Lane

"Meredith developed a great deal of potential and encouraged me to try, to risk, to believe that I CAN."

We are not accustomed to hearing from successful politicians that they are most proud of their role as mother to their children, but then Betsy Lane Cochrane is not an average politician. She is an outstanding person who, as a North Carolina Senator, works to benefit the educational system, the children, the environment, and the elderly of this state.

After graduating from Meredith in 1958, Betsy became a public school teacher, which she found very rewarding as she helped children learn. Her fondest memory of this time was when she helped a boy who was having difficulty reading. He increased his reading grade level from 2.5 to 4.9 through the course of just one year in Betsy's class.

Eventually, Betsy became interested in politics and, in 1980, became the first woman elected from her district to the North Carolina General Assembly. Just as she had in teaching, Betsy gave her new career in politics her all. In 1981 she was named the Outstanding Freshman Representative and then later received the Outstanding Woman in Government award. Betsy has worked hard to pass bills for the benefit of the community such as the elder abuse law and the welfare reform study. Her strength and determination enabled her to become the first woman in a position of leadership in the North Carolina Legislature as well as to be the first woman to preside over a Senate Session. She was also named "One of the Ten Outstanding Legislators in the Nation" by the National Republican Legislator's Association. In 1997, she served her ninth term in office. Meredith salutes Senator Betsy Lane Cochrane for her commitment to the community and for serving as a pioneer for women in the political world.

Betsy Lane Cochrane

Cochrane



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Barrington

By the time Carolyn Barrington Grubbs finished high school, she never wanted to take another history class. Yet, one semester of western civilization under the tutelage of Meredith's Dr. Lillian Parker Wolloce changed her mind and her life. Carolyn received her B.A. in history from Meredith College in 1960 and her M.A.T. from Duke University one year later. From there, she moved to Atlanta to teach high school. When she later became part of the Meredith faculty, she said, "I never dreamed I would teach college, much less at Meredith."

Carolyn returned to the college as part of the faculty in 1963 and promptly fell in love with another new faculty member, Dr. Frank L. Grubbs, Jr. They were married in 1965 and are the parents of two sons.

One of her most outstanding accomplishments was in developing Meredith's social studies program for prospective teachers. Until the 1960's, history had been taught as a separate subject in public schools. At that time curricula were expanded to include more subjects and history became one of many topics (including economics, geography and political structures) falling under the more general heading of social studies. The college's program was outstanding in training students to become competent teachers, and Carolyn directed that program for 32 years.

She says, "Meredith prepared me for teaching college in several ways: teaching me a love of history, providing me with models of good teaching, and giving me the skills with which to succeed. My education at an all-female institution empowered me to succeed in my life's work."

Stricken with Parkinson's disease, Carolyn was forced to prematurely give up the career she loved. Struggling with the thought of being a person with disabilities, she chooses to focus on the many Meredith graduates she has trained to be social studies teachers. Because she was a teacher of teachers, her legacy will continue for many years to come.

Carolyn Barrington Grubbs

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Weede

When Katherine Weede Griggs was a Meredith student, she was stirred by President John F. Kennedy's call for volunteers in his newly created Peace Corps. Shortly after her graduation, and as one of Meredith's first Peace Corps volunteers, she found herself teaching English and math to high school students in India. "I gained tremendous insight into human nature and the fact that people are very much alike whatever their circumstances," she said.

Katherine's success in India eventually led to her joining the Peace Corps staff in Washington, D.C., where she was responsible for coordinating the training for all Peace Corps volunteers.

After she married William Griggs, Katherine left her position in the Peace Corps and began to apply her talents in her home and community. One of her accomplishments was as a consultant for the southern Regional Education Board. She established the first fully organized student internship program for colleges and universities in South Carolina.

Twenty-five years after her service in the Peace Corps, Katherine went with her husband and three children to visit the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. There, in a small theatre, she was deeply moved to see that she was part of the film depicting President Kennedy's life. Footage of her teaching in India was used to represent President Kennedy's noted accomplishment of establishing the Peace Corps and she is the only volunteer shown in that film.

Active in her community in a variety of ways, Katherine has been elected and then re-elected (in Municipal elections, every four years) for the past 19 years as chairman of the Cheraw, SC Area Education Advisory Council.

Katherine Weede Griggs

Griggs



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Lancaster

Jennie Lancaster graduated from Meredith in 1971 with degrees in religion, sociology and psychology and then continued her studies at Duke Divinity School and NC State University. Ms. Lancaster's wide area of interests have proved useful in her career with the North Carolina prison system in which she has made history as the first woman to work directly in treatment services for male offenders, and the first female command manager. Lancaster's work in the prisons began in 1971 at the Palk Youth Center, where she was placed as the first female summer intern. Since then, she has risen to Superintendent of the Correctional Center for Women, where her goal is to "empower female offenders to gain control of their lives, their environment, their feelings, and to accept responsibility for their behavior." Ms. Lancaster's career of "female firsts" has gained her much acclaim. Some of her awards and recognition include the George Randall Memorial Award as North Carolina's most outstanding young correctional officer, delivering a Meredith commencement address, and appearing on Oprah to discuss the NC prison system, which is a model for other states. Ms. Lancaster has represented Meredith well not only by achieving her goals in a rigid, male-dominated field and giving extensively to the community, but by returning to the campus to give workshops and lectures.

Jennie Lancaster

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Barney

Ellen Barney Williams studied voice and religion at Meredith, taking her degrees in 1972. Ellen expected to have a career as a full-time church musician until she realized her passion for performing. She went on to graduate school in pursuit of what she loved, hoping to one day teach voice at a college level. This hope led her to The New England Conservatory, where she obtained her master's degree in music. Ellen then became an adjunct professor here at Meredith for a few years before attending Florida State University, where she studied and received her doctorate in Music.

Among her accomplishments, Ellen considers her greatest to be in performance. She is proud of the work she has done with duet partner Terry Rhodes. They have performed on the North Carolina and South Carolina Touring Artists Rasters singing for people who are perhaps not well-acquainted with 20th century American duet music. She and her partner have also commissioned works to be written for them from many composers, most of them based here in North Carolina. Their CD has been reviewed nationally as well as in Poland. During her travels, Ellen and Terry have performed in Carnegie Recital Hall, a milestone in her career. One special memory for Ellen is a reception after a recital in Italy. At the reception she spoke at length through a translator to an elderly man who wanted to tell her how much he enjoyed her singing. This meant a great deal to her.

Meredith taught Ellen to be disciplined and work hard for what she wanted. She acquired interest in many things and learned to appreciate diversity. Jane Sullivan and Bea Danley were both influential figures in Ellen's college days, and they continued to support her in her career. Ellen believes that her experiences at Meredith empowered her in ways she didn't fully realize at the time. Looking back, those times mean more to her today, now that she is part of the Meredith College staff. She currently serves as coordinator of vocal studies here at the college. Her advice to Meredith women: "Nurture all facets of your being and give yourself a chance to experiment and grow without judgement."

Ellen Barney Williams

Williams



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Fantelli

Carol Fantelli graduated from Meredith in 1977 with an art degree and went on to use her love of sculpting in a most unusual way. After reading the book Gorky Park in 1982, Fantelli was drawn to the profession of forensic facial sculpting, which involves recreating the face of a deceased individual based on evidence from the crime site and a medical examiner's report. Her interest prompted her to contact the SBI (State Bureau of Investigation), who directed her to a forensic reconstruction artist in Texas. She studied a videotape that he gave her until she felt confident enough in her skills to practice on eight skulls obtained from the state medical examiner's office.

Now, she works professionally as a forensic artist, a career she calls "a combination of science, art and intuition." One work of which she is especially proud, Sauratown Woman, was featured in a 1994 issue of *National Geographic*.

After taking a writing class through Continued Education at Meredith in 1995, Fantelli had a novel published, entitled The Face Finder. The book is fictional but draws on experiences from Fantelli's career. Carol Fantelli describes the appeal of her unique career by saying, "For me, it's a way of giving back so that somebody, a soul, could be put to rest."

Carol Fantelli

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Ward

In her brief career as a teacher of dance at Enloe High School, it has been Betsy Ward Hutchinson's proudest accomplishment that she has been able to inspire young people. Betsy touches their young lives and instills a love for the art of dance.

Betsy felt comfortable in the academic setting at Meredith and gives credit to Meredith's emphasis on educating strong and confident women. She was inspired by a number of her teachers, particularly the dance professor Sherry Shapiro.

In a recent project with all Wake County dance teachers, Betsy collaborated on a work entitled *A Teacher Is*. This work involved students and teachers and was performed at Enloe High School, Meredith College and other venues. Another project joined dancers and musicians, students and teachers to create a work entitled *Peace Like a River*. Betsy's students recently performed this work at the Durham Arts Council. She helped organize the Alliance for Dance program to celebrate the 1998-1999 "Year of the Dance" at Meredith College. Betsy has recently taken a teaching position at the Cary Academy where she teaches students at the middle and high school levels.

Betsy feels privileged to be established in the community as a professional choreographer, a teacher and an artist. Her timeless advice to current and future students: "Be what you believe you can be — there is always a way!"

Betsy Ward Hutchinson

Hutchinson



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McCulloh

On October 24th, 1914, a remarkable person was born. Sarah Lemmon has taken the world head on and is not stopping. To date, Sarah has received a degree in social studies, a Master's and a Ph.D. in history, and in 1991, at age 77, she received a degree from Meredith College in art history. She was the first to achieve a degree in art history at this school. History is her first love, that and passing on what she has learned to others. Dr. Lemmon was the head of the history department here at Meredith for 15 years. She then went on to head up the continuing education department for five years. But it is the love of history that has taken her around the world and given her some of her fondest memories. These memories include sitting alone on the steps of the Parthenon in a white pleated dress and waiting 40 years to climb the highest ancient temple in the forests of Guatemala.

One of the most recent changes Sarah has made with her life is being involved with the Episcopal Church where she lives. She said that she has always had an interest in philosophy and theology, but it was not until she received her last degree and moved to Southern Pines that she got so involved in the church. In 1995, at age 81, the Rev. Dr. Sarah Lemmon was ordained an Episcopal Minister.

The Rev. Dr. Sarah McCulloh Lemmon is a very thoughtful, kind and warm woman. She is the perfect example of lifelong learning. She has worked hard and kept her goals in mind to achieve all that she has wanted. She is constantly looking toward future experiences and new adventures. When asked for some words of advice for Meredith women she simply said, "Be all you can."

Sarah McCulloh Lemmon

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Brewer

Ellen Dozier Brewer

On a September morning in 1913, Ellen Dozier Brewer and her mother boarded the "Shoa-Fly" in Wake Forest for the 18-mile journey to Raleigh, where she would start her college career. Meredith College was still in downtown Raleigh when she began. Not only was she around to see it move to its present location, but she would be around to watch the small college grow and expand for 40 years. Meredith became her home and its people her family.

Ellen Brewer, the daughter of the former Meredith president Dr. Charles Edward Brewer, graduated from Meredith in 1918. Her degree was in home economics and she went on to complete two years of graduate study at Columbia University. In 1922 she came back to Meredith and became chairman of the department of home economics. She did further graduate study at the University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, Iowa State University and Oregon State College. She also studied abroad several times. Ellen held her position at Meredith until her retirement in 1966. The home economics department in Brewer Hall and the Ellen Brewer Home Management House hold testimonies to her hard work and dedication. The Ellen Brewer House was donated by Talcott Wait Brewer to Ellen because of her outstanding accomplishments in her field.

Organizations outside of Meredith College were also important to Ellen. She served in several offices of the North Carolina Home Economics Association, including the presidency, and held membership in the American Home Economics Association. Ellen was also involved in the First Baptist Church of Raleigh, active in the WMU work, served on the board of deacons and as the superintendent of the Beginner Department of the Sunday school. On top of all these responsibilities, Ellen was always active in the Raleigh Chapter of Meredith Alumnae and in the general Alumnae Association.

Ellen Dozier Brewer has been described by a friend and co-worker as "a person of intelligence, tenacity and utter unselfishness." Meredith College and the community that surrounds it were fortunate to know Ellen Brewer. She worked hard and cared a great deal about the job she did and the people around her. Words of her own shed light about her feelings toward Meredith and her life here: "I don't know how much credit is really deserved when one works in the field she likes the best in the place she loves the best."

1918

Brewer



Margaret Craig Martin

Margaret Craig Martin

Margaret Craig Martin graduated from Meredith in 1930 with degrees in Latin and English. She took courses at Wake Forest University, Peabody College and Columbia University, where she received her master's degree. She says, "Meredith College gave me the opportunities for leadership and advancement that I would not have had." Margaret's involvement and devotion to Meredith have continued throughout her life.

Living on campus when her husband became the business manager at Meredith College, Margaret fondly remembers being a housewife and a mother during the early years of his work. After her husband passed in 1956, President Campbell asked if she would take on a position teaching Latin at Meredith. This began her career as both a teacher and a college administrator. Margaret also became involved as an alumna and eventually took on the position of Director of Alumnae Affairs. During her time as director, US Steel awarded Meredith for the most improved annual giving for all the colleges in its category in the United States. She recalls that "everyone was very proud of this accomplishment." Margaret was also on the board of trustees and served as President of the Alumnae Association. She says, "receiving various honors from Meredith were proud moments for me that I did not envision as a student." The Margaret Martin garden that is next to the Alumnae House was one such honor given to her by Meredith in thanks for her hard work and dedication.

Margaret feels that "Meredith prepared me well for later life." She remembers Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson as a wonderful teacher who encouraged memorization. Her advice to Meredith women is to work hard, but don't forget to have fun. She encourages students to keep working with the activities that stimulate their mind and thought processes and to appreciate the practice of memorization.

1930
Craig



Davis

Eleanor Layfield Davis

Eleanor Davis, a 1932 Meredith graduate, is well-known regionally for her eye-catching, impressionistic paintings. Surprisingly, Eleanor did not begin painting until the age of 47, when her four children were in school. Already an accomplished floral arranger, Mrs. Davis first developed her skill in painting floral designs, later gaining much recognition for her landscapes, seascapes, and portraits. Her signature style reflects impressionistic strokes and vibrant colors. Eleanor creatively integrated her work with her family life, often using her own grandchildren and friends as subjects.

Eleanor's artistic life extended to the community. She served as President of the Associated Artists of Winston-Salem in 1962. She also organized Art Gallery Originals, where her paintings were featured in five special showings between 1963 and 1980. She exhibited widely throughout the Southeast with 15 one-woman shows. Two of her paintings were purchased by the NC Art Society for the loan collection of the NC Museum of Art. She has won numerous prestigious awards as well. One of Eleanor's striking portraits hangs in the Art Department here at Meredith.

Her greatest admirer and supporter is husband Egbert, who loves to tell humorous stories about her work. He says, "Eleanor loved to paint children, and was totally absorbed in her work. What happened to me one day makes the paint clear. Eleanor had left for the summer to paint in Florence. Before she left, she invited me to spend a few weeks of my own summer vacation with her. Most of the summer had come and gone before I could get away. But on the appointed day when I arrived, I didn't find her at the palazzo apartment near the Arno River, so I started looking. I quickly found her in a nearby park sketching a child. 'Hello, Eleanor!' She glanced up and waved to me hurriedly, but continued right on rapidly sketching and did not look up again until she had finished several minutes later. Then she came over to give me a welcoming kiss! I thought, first things first."

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Layfield



Wooton

Grace Phelps Wooton

When Grace Wooton was attending Meredith, she had no intentions of becoming a teacher after graduation. In fact, she wanted to become a missionary. However, during her senior year a few words of encouragement from Dr. Freeman planted a seed that flowered into an outstanding career for Grace. Dr. Freeman told her, "One day you will make a good teacher." And Grace certainly did not prove him wrong.

After graduating from Meredith in 1934 with a degree in religion, she went on to get her master's degree in vocational home economics at UNC-Greensboro. She taught vocational home economics until 1963, when her life began to take a different direction. For the next seven years, she devoted herself to children with mental disabilities. She began teaching these students in Davie County with only one class. She expanded the program over the years and after retiring was honored by the Davie County Association for Retarded Children for her work.

During her life, Grace has always thought that education has served her well. She feels that "the values one receives at Meredith live with one forever." She served as chairman of the Scholarship Fund and has helped send at least four girls from her hometown to graduate from her alma mater. When she was not teaching or helping others to receive an education, Grace helped to better her community by serving in numerous clubs and on boards. She worked as a matron at the Baptist Orphanage, the educational director at another and has served as a volunteer for the Foreign Missions.

Grace was once asked, after her husband died, if she ever got lonely. She replied that it would be impossible with all of the special memories she has, especially from Meredith, which helped her daily to continue her extraordinary life. Through her special skills in teaching, Grace has given many wonderful memories to students who would have otherwise been denied access to an education.

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Phelps



Watts

Sarah Elizabeth Vernon Watts

Many of the women who graduate from Meredith leave a mark on history in some way; Sarah Watts was such a woman. She left an indelible mark not only in the historical landscape of this school, but also in the state of North Carolina. Mrs. Watts graduated from Meredith in 1934 with degrees in English and history and went on to receive her Master's of Political Science at Duke University.

She has taught history and shared her love of genealogy and Meredith College with many. She was Chair of the Meredith Board of Trustees as well as President of the Alumnae Association. She even helped to make the research for this project possible since it was she who funded and initiated the historical collections that can be found in the Harris Room of the Carlyle Campbell Library. Up until her death, she worked on filling the class boxes that are located in the Harris Room. Mrs. Watts gave many gifts to her alma mater, the most precious of which was her time.

Throughout her life she was submerged in a love of history and involved in numerous clubs and activities that allowed her to explore the past. She was an officer for the Daughters of the American Revolution and a member of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. Before her death in 1984, Governor Jim Hunt named her chairman of the Randolph County Committee for America's 400th anniversary.

Even with all of her historical projects, Mrs. Watts and her husband raised two sons while restoring a 150-year-old house listed in the National Register of Historic Places under the name "Wavern." In 1969 she received a well-deserved Alumnae Award from Meredith. Mrs. Watts once commented, "The college's most valuable history can be found in the midst and hearts of all who have passed through her doors." And thanks to this remarkable woman, much of the invaluable recorded history of this campus can be found because of her boundless effort to preserve it. The mural committee owes Mrs. Watts our thanks, for we have used her class boxes often to help write these biographies.

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Vernon



ROSE

Norma Rose

Say the word teacher at Meredith College and one of the first names to come to mind for many students is Dr. Norma Rose of the English department. However, her teaching duties ran a gamut of constituencies from Meredith students who respectfully called her Dr. Rose, to "little folk" in the First Baptist Church Sunday school who adored her as Miss Norma, to "mature" students who were proud to be known as "Dr. Rose's Disciples." She was once quoted as saying, "I get the strength from these little folks on Sunday to face my critical students at Meredith during the week."

Betsy Short, who was a junior when Dr. Rose retired, wrote the following for *Meredith*, the college magazine: "In class, Dr. Norma Rose barely exceeds the height of the podium, but her strong resounding voice echoes in the halls. One day, she is Hamlet, the next, Lear or even Puck. While the dramatis personae change from day to day, Rose remains true to her role as a teacher...."

Dr. Rose graduated in 1936 from Meredith, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English. Called "Red Rose" by her peers during her student years, she was known as one of the ringleaders who climbed to the roof of the dining hall during a collegiate prank. She earned a master's degree from the University of North Carolina and a Ph.D. during World War II from Yale University. After a teaching career at Meredith that lasted 46 years, she began offering courses through the Continuing Education Program. She taught a variety of literature and grammar courses from the years 1986-1996, as someone said, "beginning with Shakespeare and ending with Shakespeare." She taught until two weeks before her death, making sure, as her strength failed her, that her last students had materials and study guides to finish the course without her.

In addition to all of her teaching, she edited the alumnae magazine for 25 years and a book, *Chapel Talks By Carlyle Campbell*, which was published in 1996. Dr. Betty Webb, in a tribute to Dr. Rose, had this to say: "In an age of getting and spending, she affirmed thinking and being. In an age of compromise, her spine was unbending. In an age of feeling, she stood firm for the therapeutic value of clear thinking. In an age of popularity, she cast her lot with principle. About Norma Rose we feel as Wordsworth did about her beloved Milton — our age has need of her to teach us, again and again, 'manners, virtue, freedom, power' — to say nothing of good grammar."

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Rose

Parker

Margaret Weatherspoon Parker

Margaret Parker has been a devoted and influential alumna of Meredith College. She graduated in 1938 with a bachelor's degree in primary education. Since then, she has not only remained involved with Meredith affairs but also with many other community activities.

Margaret's volunteer work has reached many people in many places. She is most proud of her involvement in her church, where she worked to establish the Mission Memory Fund. Through this fund people make donations in memory of their loved ones and the funds are used to support the work of missionaries around the world. Margaret also volunteers at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC, where her work with terminally ill patients has proven to be one of the highlights of her community involvement. In one incident, she befriended an elderly minister dying of cancer whose family was having difficulty accepting the situation. Margaret talked with him every week. Just before he died, his wife and son thanked her for all she had done.

As an alumna, Margaret has been involved with Meredith's Heritage Society, the Forsyth County Chapter of the Alumnae Association as president, and as vice president of the general Alumnae Association. However, her greatest honor and accomplishment was having been elected chair of the board of trustees at Meredith College. She is especially proud that during her tenure "Meredith began the process of changing its charter to separate from the Baptist political turmoil and reclaim its integrity." Receiving an Alumnae Award in 1990 and being named Philanthropist of the Year in 1996 were also great honors for her. Margaret, her sisters and their uncle also made possible the construction of the Weatherspoon Physical Education Building in 1970.

The experiences Meredith provided Margaret inspired her to strive for high standards. She feels that Meredith gives women "the opportunity to excel academically and to develop leadership skills." The teachers that had the most impact on Margaret were Dr. Canaday, Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson and Dr. Alice Keith. Dr. Canaday's teaching allowed her to enjoy math more than she thought she would. She pursued her math education and got a job after college as a bookkeeper. Margaret remembers Dr. Keith as having the ability to "make history come to life." Dr. Johnson worked with and encouraged Margaret through her English courses while being sensitive to her dyslexia, a disability that was not widely recognized at that time. Margaret feels her education at an all-female institution certainly made her more confident. She wants Meredith women to recognize the fact that "at a single-sex school, young women are given the opportunity to prove to themselves that they have abilities on their own. They are given the freedom to excel without the concerns or distractions associated with co-ed situations."

1938

Weatherspoon



DECKER

Dorothy Horne Decker

Many painters wonder if they will be able to financially support themselves with their talent. After graduating Meredith in 1938 with an art major, Mrs. Decker had no intentions of turning to her artistic talents for financial support. However, when her husband died of leukemia she supported herself and her three children from the money she received for her art. Today she is known as one of the most outstanding portrait painters in the nation. Her portraits hang in corporate buildings, houses, museums, art centers, state capital buildings, churches, hospitals, and libraries. She has even presented two of her portraits to former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush in the Oval Office at the White House.

She received national attention when commissioned by the Butler Institute of American Art to paint miniature portraits of seven U.S. presidents. In 1993 she finished the portrait of President Bill Clinton, which was the sixth in the Butler collection. Even though Mrs. Decker considers her presentations of these presidential portraits her most outstanding accomplishment, she looks closer to her home in Vienna, North Carolina to recall her moment of greatest satisfaction as an artist. She fondly remembers a day when students were visiting the Parkersburg Art Center and were instructed to stand in front of the painting they liked the best. All of the children stood in front of the portrait she had done of her daughter Julie.

Mrs. Decker also looks to her alma mater to discover the roots of her inspiration in becoming an artist. She acknowledges her teacher, Miss Ida Pateat, as an inspiration since she encouraged the students to do their "own thing" and let the women "represent themselves" in their works.

In her life, Mrs. Decker has done over a thousand portraits and continues to keep herself busy by painting privately commissioned portraits. She usually paints late at night and thus averages about five to six hours of sleep. Not minding the lack of sleep, she has found that art provides her with profound relaxation.

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Horne



HARRELL

Rosalind Knott Harrell

Rosalind Knott Harrell was born and raised in Gronville County. She and her twin sister, Rebecca Knott McKinley, grew up dreaming of becoming missionaries. The two attended Meredith College and in 1951 graduated with bachelor of art degrees in religion. After Meredith, they attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Woman's Missionary Union Training School in Louisville, Kentucky. From there, they began their missionary work to Africa.

Rosalind and her husband, Reverend Ralph Harrell, moved to Kenya in September, 1958, and conducted work in parts of East Africa for 37 years. She considers one of the most significant aspects of her career was adjusting to living in a cross-cultural context, which entailed learning another language and another people's world view. The Harrells managed the Baptist assembly of East Africa from 1964-1970 where Christians from all over Africa came for training, conferences, retreats and workshops. They helped start churches in the Limuru area and Nairobi where Rosalind taught Sunday school and helped with evangelistic work. She has written biblical literature for the women's groups of local churches while working with the Kenyan women in that area. Today, Rosalind says she is most proud of her three children and their families as well as their continued commitment to the Christian message. She and her husband live in Ceder Grove, North Carolina.

In remembering Meredith College, Rosalind and Rebecca spoke of the influence of Dr. Ralph McLain. Rosalind recounts his teachings as giving her "a perspective on the biblical message that has been invaluable" as she has attempted to teach and share this message cross-culturally.

Rebecca Knott McKinley and Rosalind Knott Harrell look back on their Meredith experience as years that reinforced qualities of honesty, truthfulness, tolerance and diligence. They understood the power of learning and, in an all-female environment, felt encouraged to strive toward leadership positions. Their words of advice, although written on separate continents, are similar; they advise us to give adequate attention to the development of ourselves as whole persons. Rosalind urges us to enjoy ourselves, make lasting friendships and "commit ourselves to growing spiritually lest we graduate with a plethora of skills, but be impotent to contribute healing to a hurting world."

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Knott



McKinley

Rebecca Knott McKinley

Rebecca Knott McKinley graduated from Meredith College in 1951 with a degree in religion along with her twin sister, Rosalind Knott. She and Rosalind then attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Women's Missionary Union Training School in Louisville, Kentucky. Rebecca recently moved back to North Carolina after many years of teaching in Africa. As a teacher and administrator in a theological college in Zimbabwe, she is proud to have had the privilege of helping to train men and women who are today involved in Christian ministries in six countries as well as America. Knowing that some of the African men and women she has taught now surpass her in ability and academic achievement continues to be a source of pride. She has edited preschool Sunday School materials that have been published in numerous African languages, and has edited English and ChiShona editions of six discipleship-training booklets. The most satisfying part of her career has been providing hospitality to people from various nations and strata of society. Rebecca, like Rosalind, has three children who say that they found a multi-cultural environment both challenging and rewarding.

In remembering Meredith College, both Rosalind and Rebecca spoke of the importance of their relationships with faculty and fellow students. The influence of Dr. Ralph McLain was mentioned by both of them as priceless. According to Rebecca, "He made learning exciting and motivated [us] to go beyond course requirements." Rebecca and Rosalind both reiterated the advantages of an all-female college – it gave them many leadership opportunities which they continued to use during their careers in missionary work. Rebecca encourages us to take advantage of the library, which contains "a wonderful world of learning." She reminds us "to develop mentally, spiritually, emotionally, socially and to establish good health practices."

Rosalind and Rebecca are examples of how the strong educational foundation established at Meredith can extend to others and last a lifetime.

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Knott



Tribble

Phyllis Lou Tribble

"The college opened up
for me the life of the mind."
*-An Oral History of
Meredith College*

The first time Phyllis Tribble ever encountered a group of women with doctorates was at Meredith College. Through the example of these female professors, Phyllis was encouraged to pursue her own education in religion, the subject she loved most.

After graduating from Meredith College *magna cum laude* in 1954, Phyllis went on to study at Union Seminary and Columbia University, where she received her Ph.D. in 1963. Phyllis became a professor, herself, at Wake Forest University and Andover Newton Theological School.

In 1978, her interest in feminist issues and the Bible led her to write a groundbreaking book entitled God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality. In 1979, Phyllis became the first woman Baldwin Professor of Sacred Literature in the history of Union Theological Seminary. Her research continued on sexism in the Bible and she wrote another highly respected book entitled Texts of Terror: Literary-Feminist Readings of Biblical Narratives. A pioneer in feminist interpretations of the Bible, Phyllis remains today a gifted author, brilliant professor, and role model for young women embarking upon their educational journey.

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Tribble



COOPER

Jean Batten Cooper

Jean Cooper, a 1954 Meredith graduate, still holds many ties with the College, her strongest connection being the Alumnae Association, of which she was president from 1986-1988. Serving as Regional Director of the association and a former member of the Board of Trustees, she also serves as Vice-President of Friends of the Library.

Being in constant contact with so many alumnae, Cooper saw the need to preserve the significant memories of the College and acknowledge the many community contributions made by Meredith graduates. She compiled *An Oral History of Meredith College Alumnae*, which consists of 25 hour-long cassette tapes. This also served as her thesis for a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (a degree she was the first to receive) from Wake Forest University. Not only was this thoroughly enjoyable for her, but it also encouraged her to take on many leadership positions down the road. In 1985, Cooper served as general chairperson for the Winston-Salem Area Visions Campaign, and in 1991 she was county chairperson for the "Second Century Challenge: Honoring our Heritage—Expanding our Vision." She also compiled *An Oral History of the Medical Center Guild*, a group with whom she has held membership for 30 years, at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

Cooper, an accomplished organist, has worked in several area churches. She is also the manager of Meadowbrook Farm, where she lives in Winston-Salem, NC. This 164-acre, cattle, horse, and tree farm is just one more of her challenges. Cooper travels extensively, visiting South America and Alaska, and journeying to China and Indonesia on medical missions. Living in Germany for a year, due to her husband's involvement in the army, has given her a broader view of the world and encouraged her independence.

Thinking back on the honor of receiving the 1991 Alumna Award, Cooper comments, "The place that had given me so much had prepared me for many fortunate opportunities." She encourages all of us to "take advantage of these once-in-a-lifetime experiences," and to remember that "the sisterhood will be yours forever."

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Batten

MURRAY

Rebecca Jean Murray



Whenever people talk of Rebecca Murray, they are always certain to mention one, specific word: enthusiasm. Becky had enthusiasm for everything she did, whether it was teaching, writing, acting, or fighting for what she believed in.

After graduating from Meredith in 1958, Becky went on to earn her master's degree in education from UNC-CH, and then her Ed.D. from Duke in 1973. She began teaching at Meredith in 1974 and remained there as a loved and respected professor until her death in 1992. She served as the Chairman of the Education Department from 1977-1982, and was named President of the Friends of the Corlyle Campbell Library in the Spring of 1992. Becky was also a frequent cost member for Meredith Performs and played her parts with that unending enthusiasm characteristic of her.

Becky has also paid Meredith a great service through her research and writing on the beginnings of the college. She has gathered extensive information on "The Immortal Ten," Meredith's first graduating class. Her research about the beginning of the Corlyle Campbell Library led her to write a book entitled This Essential Part, which documented the first 1,000 books acquired by the library.

In addition to being very active at Meredith, Becky also served the greater Raleigh community through her participation in the Raleigh Transit Authority and support of the SPCA. As Chairwoman in 1990, she launched an expansion of bus routes to reach 90% of the city's residents, compared to the original routes which reached only 60%. In addition to Becky's love of helping people, she also loved her furry friends and actively supported the SPCA. One year she even cooked an entire Thanksgiving turkey and took it to the SPCA pound for the animals.

Her students will remember her for her challenges that pushed them to be the best they could be; her colleagues will remember her dedication and enthusiasm for teaching; and her friends will remember her love for others and for life itself. And it is certain that everyone who knew Rebecca Murray will not forget her. It is an honor to every Meredith student to have her listed among the College's alumnae.

1958

Murray



O'Brien

Gail Williams O'Brien

"My years at Meredith College shaped my life's work," says Gail Williams O'Brien. "Through the female professors at Meredith, I witnessed strong, independent women who had their own careers and control over their own destinies." Inspired by such examples, Gail completed her B.A. in History at Meredith as a Tulane scholar, then went on to take her M.A. at Tulane and her Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her life's work as a scholar and academic was set.

She taught at North Carolina State University for over 20 years and, although she never planned to enter academic administration, recently became Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Planning and Faculty Affairs in the College of Humanities and Social Science at NCSU.

Gail has authored several works including a recent book entitled The Color of the Law: From Lynching to Legalities in the Nineteen Forties South. Eight years in the making, it is a work that required tedious reconstruction and interpretation of documents, interviews and events. Part of her research involved interviewing several African-Americans who were involved in an attempt to prevent a lynching in 1946. Hearing and recording their words left a strong impression. She says, "Such events serve as sharp reminders that seemingly ordinary people have such extraordinary qualities that they aren't in fact ordinary at all...it would behoove us to listen, not just to the words of others but to the feelings that underlie them and give them meaning."

She sometimes doubted that her voluminous collection of research would ever be a "whole piece," but with the help of her supportive husband and daughter, she persevered. In the midst of her more-than-busy schedule, the advice she gives to current students is: "Take time daily to sit quietly, to breathe deeply, and to love well."

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Williams



Kirby

Ellen Kirby

Ellen Kirby attributes her leadership abilities to her experiences at Meredith College. "I gained the confidence to be a leader and to believe women can do anything..." she says. Since her days at Meredith, she has shown a continuous interest in movements for social change.

In 1969, Ellen obtained her master's degree in religious education from Union Theological Seminary. She taught elementary school in West Harlem, then joined the national staff of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. For more than two decades she managed the social justice programs of this board. Her work involved such issues as women's concerns, child advocacy, peace, human rights, racial and economic justice, and environmental education.

She often shuttled between New York and Washington, DC, and in 1986, while serving as the head of the Social Action Department of the United Methodist Board, she attended briefings with Oliver North regarding US support of the contras in Nicaragua. Because she had taken "verbatim" notes on the conversations between North and church leaders, she was interviewed by numerous press and appeared on the ABC and NBC nightly news. Her notes became part of the congressional hearing about whether Oliver North, President Reagan and Vice President Bush might have been involved in any illegal activity in Nicaragua.

Ellen is a published author as well as the producer of a film entitled *Women, Amen!* which won the Golden Eagle Award for motion pictures.

Yet, Ellen considers her second career as her best. "I believe that my transition to a second career and the founding of a new program in community horticulture in Brooklyn, NY is my greatest accomplishment. I feel this is my calling even though I have no professional training in horticulture... To see the excitement and community pride that is generated and the response of neighborhood children to the chance to develop gardens in their neighborhoods (neighborhoods which have the fewest parks and green spaces per capita in the nation) is fantastic. The children love the flowers, the soil, and the worms!"

"As Director of Brooklyn GreenBridge, the community horticulture program of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, I have had to utilize all my background in planning, administration, public policy, sociology, and community organizing."

Those who know Ellen refer to her as accessible and generous with both her time and many talents. And of her only son, Matthew, Ellen says, "Raising him is probably my most tangible accomplishment."

Ellen's life choices are testament to the value she places on recognizing a need and then doing something about it. She is indeed a woman of compassion, competence and action.

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Kirby



WATSON NOOE

Mary Watson Nooe

Mary Watson Nooe graduated from Meredith in 1969. While at Meredith, and studying for her degree in mathematics, Mary was involved in the Democratic Party on campus and she was the managing editor of the *Twig*. Mary fondly remembers many relationships she made at Meredith with both students and faculty. Many of these friendships have lasted past graduation and are still supporting her today. Since graduation, Mary has had many outstanding accomplishments.

In 1979, Mary started her own business called "William and Mary Recyclists." She began another recycling program called "Recycle Raleigh" for food and fuel in 1982. She also started a pilot-recycling program for Boylan Heights in 1983 in which she did much of the work by herself. By the time she was elected to the Raleigh City Council she was able to engineer curbside recycling. She also helped to organize the first Hazardous Waste Day in North Carolina in 1988.

Issues concerning domestic violence and homelessness have also been a part of her public work. In 1994, she was elected President of Women in the Municipal Government of North Carolina. Here the focus of her tenure was domestic violence. Mary helped create a domestic violence unit in the Raleigh Police Department. She also helped to engineer transitional housing, and in 1995 she helped to organize "Christmas in April," a non-profit organization involved in repairing owner-occupied housing for the elderly, the disabled and the poor. Along with these issues, Mary is proud to have been part of the renovation of Memorial Auditorium and is still interested in more projects to beautify Raleigh. She currently hosts the radio program Cityline and the cable access show Citizenship. Both shows discuss city issues and encourage community involvement. She holds a deep interest in the possibilities of Raleigh's future and is planning to run for City Council again in 1999.

Mary's years at Meredith helped her to understand the importance of leadership. She feels that an all-female school enabled her to become a leader. She also realizes the importance of supporting and being supported by other women. Many influential teachers and mentors stand out in Mary's mind. Dr. Dorothy Preston, Francis Stephens, Mary Bland Josey and Bruce Heilman, past president of Meredith, are just a few who encouraged and supported her through her years at Meredith and beyond.

Mary Watson Nooe is proud to be a Meredith alumna. She says that the foundations of her skills to be a leader were instilled in her at Meredith. The feelings of her years here are reflected in her statement: "Clearly, the leadership skills that I was encouraged to develop at Meredith were the best preparation I could have ever had."

1969

Watson



Carter

Carolyn Howard Carter

Carolyn Howard Carter graduated from Meredith in 1973 with bachelor's degrees in history and religion. She continued her education, going on to receive a master's degree in history from Wake Forest and a master's degree in public administration from UNC-Chapel Hill. Carter is the first woman to serve as an Assistant Manager in Raleigh and the first female President of the North Carolina City and County Managers Association. An accomplishment of which she is particularly proud is her work to help produce a textbook used by NC high schools to teach students about local government, and a set of lesson plans for third-grade teachers in NC. These efforts were based on Carter's belief that "in order for a democracy to survive, children must understand how a democracy works."

Carter has given back to Meredith College and the community extensively. In 1996, she was selected to the YWCA Academy of Women and in 1997 she gave the Meredith graduation address, speaking on the rich traditions and legacy of the school. She also served as Vice President and a member of the Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association.

The wish Carter has for women attending Meredith now is that they "cherish every moment and carry with them the wonderful legacy of which they are a part ... the Meredith Sisterhood."

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Howard



Bridges

Linda McKinnish Bridges

Linda McKinnish Bridges stands out as a strong female figure in a male-dominated profession. In 1975, she graduated from Meredith with a BA in Religion. From there, she achieved her Master's in Divinity and her Ph.D. in New Testament and Greek from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Linda was the first Southern Baptist woman to earn a Ph.D. in these concentrations. She has also received certification in Mandarin Chinese from the Taiwan Language Institute in Taiwan, where she spent time as a missionary. Her background and positive experiences at Meredith served as the foundation for her career accomplishments.

Linda feels that Meredith was the culmination and genesis of so many good things in her life. She remembers Dr. Ralph McLain as a teacher who broadened her mind as well as her heart. His invitations to come into his study both at school and home with his family to read and talk about interesting places and ideas encouraged her love of learning. "I still try to teach with his energy and love for students," she says. Linda also learned to play the pipe organ at Meredith, which advanced her appreciation for music. The college provided Linda with the attitude that women's leadership is truly good, acceptable and worthy of emulation. The memories of the women's community at Meredith along with her own strengths and beliefs have kept Linda going through many years of opposition in a male-oriented environment. She was refused ordination twice and opposed by many representatives of the clergy. Linda says, "When they said that women cannot, I would remember that at Meredith we DID."

Now ordained to the Gospel Ministry in Richmond, Virginia, Linda is most proud of her founding a new educational community, the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Also, a project which links her experience at Meredith to her professional career was the founding and development of the Center for Women in Christian Leadership. She is proud of these two communities for their emphases on women's empowerment and education. Linda considers the birth of her son Kyle McKinnish to be her most outstanding accomplishment.

After Linda's first year at Meredith, she and her parents considered a transfer because they were concerned about the costs. A community leader learned of their dilemma and for three years added a little money to their account. Because of his generosity and confidence in Meredith, she was able to stay. At his retirement dinner, she was asked to speak, and for the first time, Linda honored him publicly for this wonderful gift. This account still exists today for needy students.

"Don't miss a thing" is the advice Linda gives to Meredith women. "We should explore the world of women: women in art, women in poetry and film, women in business, women in religion and women in education and politics." This is her encouragement to us because "there will never be another place where you can explore these issues in so nurturing an environment as Meredith College."

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McKinnish



LEAVEL

Beth Leavel

There is something electric about Broadway. One never leaves the theater without experiencing the magic. What makes this energy flow so freely from the cast to the audience so that the memory is etched in our minds? This question prompted an interview with one of Meredith's own graduates who has made it big on Broadway. It is immediately apparent that Beth Leavel carries that Broadway magic within herself — she is charismatic, full of life and in love with the professional path she has chosen.

An accomplished Broadway actress, dancer and singer, Beth presently resides in Bergen County, NJ, with her husband John Milne and two children. She was born and raised in Raleigh, NC. She graduated from Broughton High School and received her degree in sociology from Meredith College. Ms. Leavel furthered her education with an MFA at UNC-Greensboro.

This successful alumna made the decision to pursue a career in theater during her senior year at Meredith. At that time, a degree in theater was not offered. Beth performed in many campus plays as a junior and senior including *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Bliithe Spirit*, *The Bald Soprano*, and *Cabaret*. She credits Linda Bamford, a Meredith professor and Catherine Rogers, her best friend and fellow classmate, as the greatest influences on her aspirations.

Every actor has her first break, and Beth's came after she read for a comedy audition and received such a positive response that 14 agents phoned the next day and offered to represent her. This led to the part of understudy to Lucy Arnez in *I Do, I Do*. That exposure enabled her to be cast in *42nd Street* on Broadway, and to perform in its National Touring Company, which also included a run in Japan.

Beth played Tess in the original cast of *Crazy for You*, and considers this to be her greatest professional accomplishment. In 1995 she played the role of Ellie in *Show Boat*. She has performed in 14 regional and national commercials, and has landed parts on *Ryan's Hope*, *As The World Turns*, and Nickelodeon's *Yours Truly*.

Beth also choreographs. She has worked at UNC, Meredith and local dinner theaters. Most recently, she has donated her time to choreograph the Meredith student performance of *Irene*.

Looking toward the future, Beth hopes to continue performing original musicals, and would love to have the opportunity to perform material written specifically for her. When asked what advice she might give to Meredith women, Beth emphasizes the fact that you can have it all. She believes that we should "follow our dreams, and not try to fit into anyone else's mold." In her own life, Beth appears to have done this.

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Leavel



BANKER

Maureen Kacsur Banker

Maureen Kacsur Banker's experience as a Meredith College student determined for her that she would aspire to the teaching profession. After graduation, she took a position at Ravenscroft School in Raleigh, where she headed the art department. She eventually went on to complete an M.A. in printmaking.

In 1988, Maureen taught her first course at Meredith. She sought to return to her students some of what she had gained here. In 1990, she became the Director of Galleries at Meredith and, in this position, brought a collection of Henry Moore originals to the Frankie G. Weems Gallery.

In the course of Maureen's prolific career as an artist, she has exhibited in dozens of group and solo exhibitions in the United States, Italy and France. She has donated 200 etchings to the city of Sansepolchro, Italy. Eighteen of these are in a permanent installation in the 15th century Town Hall. Additional works are included in collections in North Carolina, Massachusetts, and in Florence and Tarnuuzze, Italy.

To current Meredith students, Maureen offers these words of advice: "Help each other. Women help women. Nurture whatever stages of life you are currently enjoying — whether privileged traditional-age student, young family keeper or grandmother. Meredith College is a precious diverse union of women with the potential to change the world."

1979

Kacsur



Mauney

Virginia "Ginger" Mauney

Ginger Mauney attended Meredith College and graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and a minor in economics. After graduation, she lived in New York City organizing professional and amateur tennis tournaments for Capital Sports. However, her life took a turn when she decided to go to Africa and pursue filmmaking.

In 1990, Ginger arrived in Africa with \$2,000 and an instamatic camera. With help from friends she made during a previous trip to Africa, she got a job working on a documentary about birds. From there she worked with Jen and Des Bartlett, whose nature films include the National Geographic Special "Survivors of the Skeleton Coast." Her most outstanding accomplishment to date is a film in which she was the principal writer, cinematographer and sound recordist entitled "Baboans: Against the Odds." Ginger spent four years in close contact with the desert-dwelling baboons. She feels privileged to have been accepted by them and that it was "an act of extraordinary trust on the part of the baboons and a true gift in a world where the interests of man and animals are so often at odds." Working with her during this film was a veterinarian, Conrad Brain, whose study of the baboons provided the basis for that film and whom she recently married. The documentary was nominated for a Wildscreen (the "Green Oscars") award for Best Newcomer. In this, her first independent attempt in the business, she has reached hundreds of millions by airing on PBS in the United States and in over 40 other countries.

Ginger's strong background, and love of filmmaking and wildlife have led her into a world of accomplishments including work as a producer/cinematographer for Paramount Production, National Geographic and Partridge Films. The past two years, Ginger has completed another film entitled "Legends of the Bushmen" for the TBS series WildLife Adventures. This film shows the lives of Africa's most ancient people. One of her most memorable events came from her time spent with the Bushmen. The last night she was on location she was allowed to participate in a trance dance. Dance is their highest form of prayer and this dance was to inspire healing to a sick member of the community. The next day she was told that she was the first outsider ever allowed within the fire circle.

Ginger grew up with three sisters, a wonderful, strong mother and a support system of grandmothers and great aunts. She says, "Attending Meredith was a natural extension of the support I've always known was so invaluable in a family of women." She also says the English department gave her "a wonderful grounding in and appreciation of the magic of language and all forms of communication." Ginger's advice to Meredith women is to avoid complacency and to always embrace change. She tells us that "only by exploring unknown and even fearful new places can we discover exciting new worlds."

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Mauney



Bunting

Joan Bunting

Joan Bunting always had an interest in travel. After taking her degree in biology from Meredith in 1985, she decided to broaden her horizons. She felt that the Peace Corps would be the ideal way to combine travel and work. She joined up and spent the next 27 months as a public health volunteer in a Zairian village. Her duties included health education related to nutrition for women and babies.

Joan found integration into another culture to be an intense learning experience. She wore the clothing of the natives, ate their food and learned their language. She also polished up on her French, which was the language of the educated in Zaire. The lack of running water, electricity and transportation did not dissuade Joan. At the end of her first 27 months, she chose to renew her contract with the Peace Corps.

In 1991 Joan was again in Zaire, this time working on a ten-month contract with USAID to study measles vaccines which could be given before the usual age of nine months.

Joan's interest in learning about the basic life practices and philosophies of the African culture has served the people of Zaire well. For the cultural education she has received, she has given back a healthier population.

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Bunting



Alpenfels

Anita Waters Alpenfels

Anita Waters Alpenfels is an alumna of Meredith's music department who has gone on to great accomplishments. Anita received her Bachelor of Arts in Music from Meredith in 1985 and a Master of Arts in Music in 1991. Since then, she has completed her certification in Curriculum and Instructional Supervision at Campbell University. Anita is an award-winning singer, pianist and organist who is now involved with arts education.

Anita describes her years at Meredith as invaluable. She feels that "without the education and training I received at Meredith, I do not believe my current position would have been a possibility in my own mind, much less anyone else's." Meredith gave her the confidence to strive toward her goals and embrace a belief in lifelong learning. While she is proud of her own achievements in educational positions, she is most proud when former students pursue the field of education as well.

The teachers Anita worked with while at Meredith had everything to do with her current role in arts education administration. She was encouraged to major in music instead of just using her talents toward a minor in her degree. She approached every class with great importance. In her opinion, she cannot recall any professor that did not take his or her task seriously. She remembers specific instructors such as Dr. Lynch, from whom she learned perseverance and attention to detail, and Dr. Vaglio who taught her that sometimes the best learning takes place when it's so much fun you don't even realize it's happening. Dr. Page also taught her how critical it is to be prepared to perform even those jobs you think you will never face, and Dr. Cochran instilled in her the power of debate and the ability to agree to disagree. One of Anita's fondest memories comes from her undergraduate years at Meredith when she was the president of the student chapter of the North Carolina Music Educators Association. She was encouraged to ask Mrs. Billiegene Garner to speak at one of the meetings. After that first meeting, Anita would go on to work for Mrs. Garner and eventually assume her role as Director of Arts Education for Moore County Schools. She attributes her experience at Meredith with helping her establish that first contact. Meredith College encouraged Anita to express herself and reach out into leadership roles. She feels that Meredith provided a safe place for her to grow. Her advice to women attending Meredith is to take advantage of every moment. "If learning is viewed as an opportunity, the importance of every class will become evident."

1985

Waters



BROWN

Yvette Brown

Dr. Yvette Brown always had the desire to become a physician. As a child, she saw herself as wanting to be a provider of health to individuals in her community. When she was deciding on what undergraduate institution to attend she said, "I was looking for a sense of community, a place that instilled responsibility, a place that would provide confidence and determination and a place with a strong academic background." Yvette feels that she found all of these things and much more at Meredith.

As a student at Meredith, Yvette was her Freshman Class President, she took part in the Barber Science Club, Student Life Committee and the Student Foundation and was on the varsity volleyball team. Academically, she felt she never had the opportunity to hide behind other students or get lost in a crowd in any of her classes. Her professors encouraged everyone's opinion to be heard and considered. This instilled in her the confidence to stand up and be heard in all discussions. Seeing others around her grow at Meredith also inspired her to become a more confident woman. Yvette feels her experiences at an all-female institution forced her to find herself and her niche in society. She describes the faculty at Meredith as having an "excellence with regard to their diligence in teaching the future leaders of the world." The education Yvette received from Meredith allowed her to stand toe to toe with individuals from other institutions and assert her knowledge with confidence and vigor. Her daily interaction with administration personnel and faculty encouraged her to express her opinions. Dr. Clara Bunn set the foundation for her scientific background and Dr. Dorothy Preston taught her to think more analytically.

Today, Yvette feels blessed by all that has happened to her both during her time at Meredith and since. While at medical school, she received awards for her outstanding achievement, including a full scholarship for her medical school tuition after her first year. She is currently working in obstetrics and gynecology at an Indian Service Hospital in Philadelphia. This career fulfills her childhood dream of helping the underprivileged. Yvette wants Meredith students to know that "the experiences and education gained at Meredith open a world of opportunities to every woman who allows her mind and soul to become absorbed in this nurturing community. This will allow you to go anywhere in the world and be anything you desire." She also encourages Meredith women to "use the resources that are available from professors to administration to friendships; all will last a lifetime."

1990

Brown



Winter

Renee Winter

Renee Winter tells her students, "If you're really talented in something, you need to honor that talent and give back." Renee has embraced that philosophy since graduating from Meredith with a degree in art. She went on to complete a master's degree and now teaches Visual Art to high school students and Art Appreciation to college students. She takes great pride in the achievements of her students and goes to great lengths to ensure that they have the chance to exhibit their work. She often calls the news media to come and report on her students' exhibitions and does anything possible to get recognition for them. Their successes in art inspire self-confidence and often this leads to success in other areas.

Renee credits Dr. Bailey with teaching her about the dynamics of human learning and interaction. She has put this knowledge to use in her own classroom. She wants her students to recognize their potential just as she learned to recognize her own. She feels that her education at Meredith has prepared her for "ethical leadership as an artist and as an art educator."

To Meredith students, Renee gives these words of advice: "Women who attend Meredith College have the opportunity to emerge as strong citizens to help shape a world in serious need of well-educated women. This is a big opportunity — use it well . . . an awesome responsibility — honor it well."

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Winter



Goodmon

Barbara Goodman

Barbara Goodman entered Meredith College at the age of 45 through the Continuing Education Program. Working as a registered nurse, she decided she wanted to go back to school and get a degree. In 1994, Barbara graduated from Meredith *magna cum laude* with a degree in history. She feels that attending Meredith College gave her the confidence to be a stronger leader in the community. Barbara's involvement in community activities began over 22 years ago.

As an advocate for the homeless and poor, Barbara has served on the Salvation Army Board for 20 years, chairing the board for three years. She is the first and only female so far to serve as chair of the Raleigh Salvation Army Board. Ten years ago, Barbara organized the Salvation Army Christmas Committee, which now involves approximately 2,000 volunteers and families and has brought Christmas to over 3,000 children in our area. As a member of the Wake County Human Services Board, she focuses her attention on food lines, shelters and substance abuse treatment programs. Her concern also includes coordinating and collaborating public and private agencies in dealing with these issues. She helps to organize these agencies' efforts so that their help is efficiently distributed amongst the community. In the spring of 1998, she was involved in organizing a Wake County Community Forum which brought service providers together to communicate and collaborate. The second annual forum has been scheduled for March of 1999.

Barbara Goodman has recently been inducted into the Academy of Women for Human Services. She feels that her experiences at Meredith have opened many doors for her. Two people who were important teachers for Barbara were Frank and Carolyn Grubbs. She remembers Carolyn particularly as an influence during her college career. As an alumna, Barbara has served on the Board of Associates at Meredith for three years and is currently on the Board of Trustees. She continues being involved because of the passion she developed for Meredith as a student. Barbara is now in graduate school at NC State University working toward her Master's in Liberal Studies.

As an outstanding leader in our community, Barbara Goodman's efforts never tire. Her humanitarian work has spanned two decades and reached many people in our area. Barbara feels the confidence she gained at Meredith could not have come from a co-ed school. Her advice to Meredith women: "Take advantage of every academic and social opportunity that Meredith has to offer. You never know where an opportunity may lead you."

1994

Goodmon

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James

Elizabeth Datterer graduated from Meredith College in 1930. She then attended the University of Pennsylvania where she received her M.D. in 1939. In 1949, Elizabeth came back to Meredith to deliver a speech at the annual meeting of the Meredith College Alumnae Association. She opened her speech by reminiscing about her days at Meredith. Chemistry classes with Dr. Mary Yarbrough, and physics with Dean Boamhaur were where she felt she started her medical career. She said, "These teachers disciplined me and inspired me to continue to prepare for my ultimate goal — the practice of medicine."

It was in Pennsylvania that she met her husband, who was also a doctor. They moved back to Sanford, NC, where they both opened private medical practices. Elizabeth was one of the first women doctors in this area. Both were known throughout their community for the kindness and humanity they showed toward their patients, friends and neighbors. As an active member of the Meredith Alumnae, Elizabeth was the first alumna to act as President of the Board of Trustees. As an extra honor, she learned that she was the first female to serve in this position at any North Carolina Baptist College. Elizabeth also served on the Executive Committee as a member and Vice President, and she was elected President of the Alumnae Association.

Elizabeth James Datterer was proud to be a doctor and proud to be part of Meredith's growth. When she retired as a trustee, she mentioned many steps Meredith had taken forward while she was there. New buildings, renovations, teachers' salary increases and raised graduation requirements were just a few accomplishments in which Elizabeth took part. She continued to encourage others to make Meredith even better. With the spirit and drive of alumnae like Elizabeth Datterer, Meredith has continued to grow and remain an outstanding college for women.

Elizabeth James Datterer

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Howell

Ida Howell Friday has spent her life helping others. Her passion of learning come from her mother, who taught high school in Lumberton, North Carolina, for 34 years. As a Meredith student, Ida achieved a B.A. in Home Economics in 1941. Professor Ellen Brewer was Ida's most influential teacher at Meredith. She also considered her a friend. Ms. Brewer would take an enormous amount of time to work with the students individually, sharing her knowledge. Concerned with all of her students, she worked to stimulate them to do their very best.

After graduating from Meredith, Ida went on to the University of Chapel Hill where she achieved her Master's of Public Health in 1948. From 1948 to 1952 she worked for Carolina Power and Light as a Home Economist and at the University of Chapel Hill as an Instructor and Workshop Director in the School of Public Health. Since then, Ida has been a part of countless memberships dealing with a wide variety of issues concerning our area and state. To list a few, her memberships have included being the President of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society and a member of the Executive Committee for the Children's Home Society of North Carolina. Ida has also served as a member of several Boards including the Community Church in Chapel Hill, the League of Women Voters, the NC Museum of Art, Central University and the Hospital Auxiliary of UNC-Chapel Hill. For 30 years, Ida served as hostess of the President's home at UNC-CH, where her husband, Bill Friday, was Chancellor and later President of the UNC system. Presently, Ida is still an active member of her community as she is taking part in six organizations dealing with issues on women, the arts, health and public television. For the past 25 years, Ida has been honored a dozen times for her actions as a community and university leader. She and her husband have had college buildings and centers named after them at UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Wilmington. Ida went back to school at UNC-Wilmington, achieving her LL.D in 1992.

Her husband has written "being at Meredith gave Ida a marvelous exposure to public affairs and public service, being in the capital city and participating in college government activities." Meredith encouraged Ida to be self-confident through a systematic way of study and preparation, an assurance that proved beneficial in her career and public activities. Her association with Meredith College and remembrances of Ellen Brewer have helped to sustain her throughout life, allowing her to be a participating and vital part of her community. Perhaps her words of advice to Meredith women would be the same that she received from Ellen Brewer a half-century ago: "Qualify yourself to serve your fellow men and do so with a joyful heart and to the best of your ability."

Ida Howell Friday



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Kenan

Keats' verse "A thing of beauty is a joy forever" might well serve as a theme for Loleta Kenan Powell's horticultural career. As an English major dutifully tramping the well-worn paths to and from class, Loleta's mind contemplated the flowery words of Shakespeare but also fixed intensely on the stunning landscape along the way. The small explosions of wisteria, redbud and periwinkle that glimmer as a backdrop for most busy students proved an inspiration to the young Powell.

What began as a passion for gardening turned into a serious study of day lilies, irises and other perennials. She started her own nursery business and developed innovative cross-breeds for national seed catalogues. She is the recipient of numerous state and national awards for her hybrid varieties, one of which, the "Meredith Hues," is a fond tribute to the place Ms. Powell cites as her inspiration. In her remembrances she writes:

"There was a gorgeous bed of pansies which one faculty member kept by the freshman dormitory. Another kept pinks, and yet another sweetheart roses. As I think about it now, I realize that it was at Meredith that I came to know and love all these flowers."

In the Spring, as we travel between Johnson Hall and class, in the rush to keep academic pace, take note of the irises blooming extravagantly in the circle. Crafted with care and tended lovingly, they are Loleta's reminder to us to look with an intense eye, breathe deeply the fragrances, and fully experience the gifts along the way.

Loleta Kenan Powell

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McIntyre

Joyce McIntyre Rudisill graduated from Meredith College in 1942 with a degree in mathematics. Her original aim after college was to become a teacher. Instead, Joyce decided to enter the family business. Since then, she claims her greatest accomplishment has been her involvement in establishing three businesses. These businesses include an electrical equipment distribution company in Charlotte and a ceramic tile plant in Lexington, which she and her father operated together for 30 years. Out of her three businesses, Joyce has sold two and still manages the third. In 1990, she was nominated for a Distinguished Woman of North Carolina Award.

Remembering her years at Meredith, Joyce says, "My experiences and relationships at Meredith as a student enabled me to believe that I could accomplish and achieve goals set by others and myself." At Meredith, Joyce also managed the BeeHive, which she feels launched her into a field of sales and distribution. She named a long list of influential teachers she encountered while at Meredith including Dr. Julia Hamlet Harris, Dr. Mary Yorbarough and Dr. Canaday. Meredith allowed Joyce to become more confident through "encouragement and wonderful role models."

In 1980, Joyce was nominated for a Meredith Alumna Award. She has served as a member of Meredith's Board of Associates, its secretary and two terms as regional Vice President of the Association. From 1976-78 Joyce served as the President of the Alumnae Association. During this time she visited over 90 percent of the alumnae chapters not only in North Carolina, but also in nine other states. Reflecting on this position she said, "It was a most enjoyable honor which gave me the opportunity to know and enjoy knowing more Meredith alumnae and students." Outside Joyce's involvement with Meredith and her businesses, she took on the position of president of the church council in St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Charlotte for two years. She was the first woman to serve as president at a Lutheran Church in this state. Her encouragement to Meredith women is to realize that "your education will enable you to pursue your dreams and achieve your goals. The relationships and friends you make at Meredith will stay with you all your life."

Joyce McIntyre Rudisill

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1943 Knight

Students who remember Dr. Ione Knight as their English teacher at Meredith College might be surprised to know of her many other talents and versatility. She graduated in 1943 from Meredith, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts *cum laude* with a double major in English and mathematics. She participated in many activities and clubs and was voted "Most Athletic" in the senior class. In fact, she was president of the Athletic Board her senior year.

After graduation, she taught mathematics in Henderson, NC, then went to the University of Pennsylvania to earn her master's degree. During the 1950's she packed many experiences into one decade. She was chair of the English department at Shorter College in Georgia and then Assistant Dean of Women at Meredith College. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina and came to teach English at Meredith. Her doctoral thesis on Wembleton's Sermon was published by the Duquesne Press, a much deserved acknowledgement of her scholarship.

In a tribute to Dr. Knight, Dr. Betty Webb said, "We all knew that the invitation to excellence that she constantly extended to us was, in fact, an act of love." The tribute was on the occasion of her being the first recipient of the Mary Lynch Johnson Chair in English. And Dr. Webb rendered a vivid verbal picture of Dr. Knight: "Tall, with bright blue eyes that never blinked, she galloped across the campus. If you were helping her with an errand, you galloped too."

Before her retirement in 1993, Dr. Knight earned the Outstanding Teacher Award at Meredith in 1979 and the Distinguished Alumna Award in 1982. She also was the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer at Meredith in 1984. After her "retirement" she continued to teach in the Meredith Continuing Education program as well as serve on alumnae committees. A loyal daughter of Meredith, her teaching career was marked by her concern for her students and for setting and upholding a high standard of achievement.

Ione Kemp Knight

Knight



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Miller

Elizabeth Miller graduated from Meredith College in 1944. Her experiences at Meredith strengthened her spiritual foundations, taught her how to be a strong leader and developed her socially. Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson was one of the most influential and stimulating professors Elizabeth had during her college years. She felt that "Dr. Johnson not only taught English, she gave of herself." Living on campus during World War II meant there were often blackouts and students were expected to sit in the hallways until it was over. But Elizabeth and her roommate would find their way to Dr. Johnson's room and talk with her in the darkness. She said, "We talked about faith and what it meant and it stimulated our thinking and our growth as nothing else could have." A course that was invaluable toward Elizabeth's education was Race Relations taught by Dr. Ellen Winston. As a native of the North going to school in the South, Elizabeth admitted that she was naive enough to think all racial problems existed only in the South. This course opened her eyes to the realities of racism as they were all over the country and made a strong impact on what she would do in her career.

After graduating from Meredith, Elizabeth went to Yale Divinity School and received her Master's in Divinity. She majored in Social Ethics and minored in Christian Education. Her life consisted of helping the poor, political refugees, minorities and later, persons with AIDS. Always focusing on racial and cultural relations, Elizabeth took on many roles in her career. As Executive Director of the Division of Christian Social Concern of the American Baptist Churches in the 1960's, she felt "fortunate to be deeply involved in the struggles related to civil rights, the environmental movement, the women's movement, Vietnam and to all of the great issues that the country was facing during those years." It was during that time when Elizabeth was also working toward opening up the American Baptist Churches to more opportunities for women. However, she wrote that "fighting for the rights of women was in some ways more difficult than civil rights until a black member of the staff of the Home Mission Society said, 'I understand what they are saying.'" He in turn interpreted to the rest of the board, from the black experience, what they as women were trying to say. That was a turning point for Elizabeth because the Division of Christian Social Concern finally voted that discrimination against women was an issue with which they needed to deal. This led to the organization of a triumvirate which brought women together to work for opportunity within the denomination. In the 1970's Elizabeth became Director of Issues Development for National Ministries, which put her in charge of developing the policy of National Ministries and basically of the American Baptist Churches on a variety of public issues. During that time they developed policies based on issues such as human rights, racial justice and immigration. Elizabeth's work has always been about what she believes is right and fair and she has not been afraid to stand up and be heard.

She once wrote about Meredith: "Being part of an all-female institution was good for me. The opportunities for leadership that women had in that type of institution would have been much more difficult in a co-ed school. Meredith gave me role models that enabled me to move with security and I learned that opportunities for leadership must be open to women, that the world is the loser if they do not have those opportunities. It was not only what I learned in books, it was what I learned in life at Meredith, the people I met there and what I learned of myself and what I could be. I learned that I had a responsibility that was more than a responsibility to me alone — and that was a responsibility to God, a responsibility to society, and a responsibility to make my life count. I am grateful to Meredith for giving me that."

Elizabeth Miller

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Farmer

Holding a passion for the past and an energetic, determined personality, Fannie Memory Mitchell has created a full professional life that has taken interesting turns. As lawyer, history instructor, welfare worker and state archivist, her fascination with history has been the focus of her work. But she has not allowed herself to be typecast as a "research person."

After earning her degree in history in 1944, Mitchell went on to study law at Cornell and came back to UNC to complete her studies. She worked as a judge in domestic court and earned her master's degree. She joined the State Archives and History staff and worked there for 26 years. Becoming the head of the publications section, Mitchell was responsible for preserving documents to be included in the official history of the state's gubernatorial accomplishments.

She sees her own history as an exercise in "not looking back — no regrets." With an unapologetic confidence and energy, she impresses all around her as a strong character — one who embraces varied roles with innovative style. Many remember seeing her bicycling to and from work in downtown Raleigh. And later, after the birth of twins at the age of 41, (an experience "nothing had prepared her for") strolling them along the same route. Mitchell's approach to life has always been to move forward, in whatever role undertaken, and follow the leads that are most interesting and challenging.

In an Alumnae Day address, Mitchell credited her liberal arts education with helping her to develop a spectrum of interests and abilities. She quoted John Lyly, who advised in 1579, "Always have more strings to your bow than one."

Reminiscing, she says, "I've had strong, big strings and I've had little, minor strings. All have given me pleasure ... fun and satisfaction of life."

Fannie Memory Farmer Mitchell

Mitchell



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Edinger

Growing up on the campus of an orphanage where her parents worked, Dr. Lois Edinger knew from the age of six that she wanted to teach. When her first-grade teacher asked her to help instruct the other students in her rural school, Lois had found her calling. When she arrived at Meredith at age 16, she was a determined but very shy girl. She attributes her success to Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson and other faculty who supported her and challenged her to believe in herself. The seed of transformation grew as Dr. Edinger went on to become an international educator and leader.

After teaching in the public schools and receiving her master's degree and Ph.D., Lois served as NEA President under the Johnson Administration and was a prominent leader in the critical issues of the time. She was instrumental in national policy reforms affecting desegregation and treatment of poor children. She traveled extensively and published numerous articles in her quest to always improve the status quo.

Her approach was innovative. Dr. Edinger challenged the pervasive notions of sex stereotyping in children, the unfair double-standards of women's academic settings and the negative images of women in the media. Above all, her clear-headed vision for change reflects a compassion for those who, like herself, faced crossroads in the development of their goals with education, child-rearing and careers. She championed the golden opportunity of education as a means of transformation for all, but particularly for those facing obstacles.

In one of her numerous convacational speeches, Lois boldly answered critics of all-female institutions. She firmly believed that women's colleges must not merely pattern men's schools, but lead the way to encompassing all of a woman's potential in the myriad of roles she plays as student, mother and career person. She calls all women to be crusaders of change: "We must have the imagination and seek the resources to design a program to educate girls for living and working with people in the real world ..."

Lois Edinger

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Vande Kieft

Dr. Ruth Vande Kieft attended Meredith during World War II when her father came to Raleigh as a service pastor. As a student, Ruth was very active in campus activities.

The teachers that were the most influential in Ruth's education were Lillian Parker Walloce, Mary Lynch Johnson, Julia Horris, Harold McCurdy, Ellen Winston, Beatrice Donnelly and Corlyle Compbell. Ruth wrote of how they awakened her intellectual life, taught her in their respective disciplines and nurtured her values. After Meredith, Ruth attended the University of Michigan where she received her M.A. in 1947 and she then received her Ph.D. in 1957. However, it was at Meredith that Ruth learned to "love the south" with all of its rich complexity. She reflects on her years at Meredith as a turning point in her decision to study Southern Literature, a subject in which she became an expert. Ruth's life turned into the classic story of a small town girl who strikes off to New York City to "make it big."

As professor emerita for 30 years at Queens College in New York, Ruth became renowned in her field. She was known for her lectures on African-American Literature and the work of novelists such as Flannery O'Connor, William Faulkner and Eudora Welty. Her book Eudora Welty was the first full-length study of the southern writer. Her accomplishments brought new focus and validation to a genre of writers — particularly female — that had long been overlooked. Ruth's experiences at Meredith were "wonderful on the whole." She felt she received a good education and formed enduring friendships. She wrote, "I am grateful to Meredith for all it gave me."

Ruth Vande Kieft

Vande Kieft



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Loftin

Dorothy Goodwin took a degree in music from Meredith College in 1947. And while music remains one of her passions, she is also enthusiastically dedicated to church, civic organizations, and to the core of her spirit — her own home. Named "Model Farm Family" of North Carolina in 1973, her role in family life has broadened the notion of "homemaker" to include an active, committed life in church and community.

She became the first woman Moderator of the Raleigh Baptist Association and served on the General Board of the NC State Convention, a position few women have traditionally occupied. Dorothy's infectious enthusiasm and generous spirit are characteristic of this woman whose legacy began with a solid devotion to the challenges of family life.

In Dorothy's words of advice to Meredith students she says, "The spiritual journey is just as important as your scholastic and social endeavors. Take advantage of the opportunity to hear speakers that are a part of chapel and other convocations."

Dorothy Loftin Goodwin

Goodwin



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Covington

"...learn all you can-all
your life."

Carolyn Robinson's presence at Meredith has been invaluable for the college as well as for the Raleigh community. After graduating from Meredith in 1950, Carolyn worked as a secretary for the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Raleigh. Her career at Meredith began in 1958 when she became the secretary in the Development Office. Since then, Carolyn has held many important positions within the college including the Director of Publications, Director of Alumnae Affairs, and Editor of *Meredith*, the college magazine. After her retirement from Meredith in 1992, Carolyn still remained active in the college and was appointed College Historian in 1993. She has just finished writing and publishing a book entitled The Vision Revisited: A History of Meredith College 1971-1998.

In addition to Carolyn's loyal service to Meredith, she is also a talented playwright. She has written three plays: *A Bright Flame Burning* for the Tabernacle Baptist Church; *And Here Begins the Day* for the Women's Missionary Union; and *Parable of the Morning Star* performed at Jones Auditorium for Meredith College.

Carolyn's church and community services have also been outstanding. For her dedication to her church and faith, she was elected the first woman deacon at Raleigh's historic Tabernacle Baptist Church. And her community service led her to spend a summer in Sarajevo as Raleigh's Community Ambassador to the former Yugoslavia. She used her experience to inform Raleigh leaders and organizations about the war-torn Bosnian community.

Carolyn Covington Robinson

Robinson



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Clark

Anne Dahle can serve as an example for us all on how to give so that others will benefit. Her life has gained fulfillment from helping others find their dreams and achieve their goals.

After earning a degree in math from Meredith in 1954, Anne set to the task of teaching, something she continued to do in one way or another even after she left the profession. The next step in Anne's career proved her to be a pioneer for women in the computer programming field. Anne became the first woman programmer at North Carolina State University in the 1960's.

In 1972, she made a substantial contribution to Meredith — she established the Re-entry, or 23+, Program for non-traditional age students. This program has helped and will continue to help many women over the age of 23 to earn a college degree. In honor of her hard work and success with this program, the Alumnae Re-entry Club established the Anne Dahle Scholarship Fund for rising re-entry seniors.

In addition to her service to Meredith students, Anne also has served her community through involvement with associations such as the North Carolina Adult Education Association and the Life Enrichment Center of Wake County. Recognizing her services to Meredith College and the surrounding community as an educator, counselor, and innovator, Anne received the YWCA Education Award in 1996. Anne will always be honored at Meredith as an exemplary person who truly found a joy in helping others enrich their lives.

Anne Clark Dahle

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Teaching Christian theology and helping to open doors for women in vocational Christian ministry are only a few of Dr. Elizabeth Barnes' accomplishments.

After leaving Meredith, she earned her M.Div. at Southeastern Seminary and her Ph.D. at Duke. Yet, she says about going to the other schools, "I drew out of the rich benefits of having studied with kindly, dedicated and academically demanding professors in my undergraduate program at Meredith..."

"My years at Meredith fostered confidence, skill, education, attitude and vision concerning the abilities of women. I grow increasingly sure that having women professors as my models ... helped me to dare to become a woman professor of theology, to have the confidence to enter the predominantly male world in which I have studied, taught, and written books."

Elizabeth is also credited with a pivotal role in the establishment of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond where she now teaches. At a very tense meeting of the Southern Baptist Alliance held in Greenville, SC in March of 1989, she addressed the conference on the need for starting a new Baptist seminary, especially as a place for women to prepare for the ministry. At the conclusion of her speech, she received a standing ovation. This seemed to turn the tide of opinion and the subsequent vote was overwhelmingly in favor of establishing the seminary. Five years later, Elizabeth was elected to a full professorship of ethics and theology at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

Married to John W. Eddins in 1992, they are the parents of nine children.

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Elizabeth Barnes

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Barnes

Warwick

Mary Carol Warwick



Mary Carol Warwick graduated from Meredith College with a degree in piano performance in 1961. Her love of music took her from Meredith to Florida State University where she received her Master's and Doctorate in Composition and Theory. She says that she has been playing the piano ever since she could touch the keys and considers it second nature. Currently working at Houston Community College, Mary continues to add to her long and distinguished resume of original compositions.

Always experimenting with new styles and mediums outside of her main genre, Mary's talent has allowed her to write for many different areas of music. Along with teaching, she has written compositions for musical theater, opera and instrumental pieces. This list not only varies greatly in the musical sense but deals with a wide variety of issues from a world-traveling opera singer in search of love and wisdom to a blind boy who chooses his friends for how he relates to them. One song Mary wrote is entitled "Still We Dance." This piece, which premiered in 1995, is an open-ended song cycle set to poems written by people who are HIV positive. Mary wanted to give people with AIDS a voice, one that was their own. So that she does not stagnate in her work, Mary incorporates different musical ideas such as rap or jazz to create new and exciting music that will work to reach an audience. She feels that if people are stirred in some way, music is memorable. Recently, Mary was chosen through a nationwide search to work with Stuart Ostrow, who has produced such Broadway shows as *Pippin*, *1776* and *M. Butterfly*. Ostrow said, "She has the ability to probe new musical ideas for the theater, which is sorely needed. Her sense of storytelling, combined with the poetry of her lyrics, and the force of her melodies, raise the level of standard musical fare to thrilling, thought-provoking drama." Mary was also praised in a review of the play *Grand National* which is an original adaptation of Enid Bagnald's *National Velvet*: "Her eye for truth makes her talent brilliant and her knowledge genius. She is adept and appreciative of music, which gives her an understanding of it that leads to the motivation embodied in an educator able to present knowledge as a gift." Mary's most recent commissions include a bilingual version of *Cinderella* from the Houston Grand Opera with librettist Kate Pogue.

Mary Warwick has commanded the respect of her peers as an intelligent writer who is also a joy to work with. Working as the composer-in-residence at Houston Community College and a director of the school's experimental theater, she has also taught at the Humphrey school, an institution offering year-round classes in singing, dancing and acting for children and adults. When Mary needs a break from music, she works at her second love, as a trained bird specialist in wildlife rehabilitation. We are sure to hear many more wonderful things from this talented composer.

1961

Carol

In 1962, Nancy Ricker High graduated from Meredith College with a degree in home economics and a minor in sociology. She then completed graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC-Greensboro. Her master's degree was achieved in adult education from NCSU. Since Nancy has finished school, she has worked hard to achieve a long list of accomplishments.

Nancy worked as a dietitian's assistant at Dorothea Dix hospital before becoming a social worker and eventually a supervisor for the Forsyth County Welfare Department. She later became a home economics extension agent and then Director of Food Promotions for the NC and VA Peanut Growers Association. In this position, she was able to travel the country and was named to the National Peanut Advisory Committee by the Secretary of Agriculture. Making a change, Nancy obtained a job as a sales representative for Hennis Freight Line. She was the first woman in the South employed in this area and was determined to make the most of it. In 1976, Nancy became Director of Consumer Affairs of the Southern Furniture Manufacturers Association, and in 1982, President of the National Home Fashions League. Working in the furniture industry for 20 years, Nancy is proud to be an executive in an industry usually dominated by men. Being a role model for women has been an ongoing objective in her career. She hopes her success in the industry has made a difference in how future women will be treated in this business. One of her favorite memories took place at a surprise ceremony held in her honor. She was named recipient of the American Furniture Manufacturers Association's President's Award. After receiving praises from a room full of male executives about how her efforts had made their work and success easier, she said, "Well, I am glad to see that you fellows can do something by yourselves." This brought down the house. Currently, she is the Director of Marketing and Communications for the American Furniture Manufacturers Association.

Meredith's impact on Nancy was profound. Within its walls she realized her love of learning. She also credits Meredith with helping her to develop her leadership skills and understand the need to give back. Nancy remembers Dr. Norma Rose, with whom she struggled for two years. She states that the writing skills learned under her tutelage have been "the cornerstone to my success in many fields including editing, publishing, marketing, public relations and promotion." To Nancy, Meredith has been "the wind beneath my wings." Within this time, Nancy has also started two businesses, A Sharper Image and Magellan Travel, in Winston-Salem. Her words to current and future Meredith students: "Know that the assurance and confidence gained from the college will pay off enormously."

Nancy Ricker High



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Ricker

1962 Dial

Prior to becoming an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at Fayetteville State University, Dr. Ruth D. Woods worked as a teacher, school media specialist, Director of the Robeson County, NC Indian Education Act, and was the first woman to be appointed assistant superintendent of the Robeson County School System. A Native American, Ruth spent many years as a strong advocate for other American Indians seeking higher education. "Indians can make it without total cultural assimilation and compete on an equal basis," Dr. Woods says.

With more than 25 years of experience in human and civil rights activities, she has received many recognitions for her leadership and was the first woman to be elected to an at-large appointment to the UNC Board of Governors by the North Carolina General Assembly

Of her experiences, Ruth says, "I never dreamt that I would stand before 5,000 delegates at a National Education Association Convention and be honored as the recipient of a national award, serve by presidential appointment to the International Women's Year Continuing Committee, serve on the governing board of the University system, which denied me admission to state supported institutions when I graduated from high school, or be recognized as a Distinguished Woman of North Carolina. I attribute these honors and recognitions to those people whom I have met along the way, who shared their path with me and who challenged me because they saw in me what I did not see in myself."

She says, "I have worked with both men and women and I believe that my success was grounded in the Meredith experience. My education there provided me with a nurturing environment in which to grow academically, spiritually, morally, and socially."

Married to Naoh Woods in 1973, Ruth is the mother of four children.

Ruth Dial Woods

WOODS



Betty Jo Roach exemplifies the many unsung heroes among Meredith alumnae. When she left Meredith College, she was a shy, inexperienced, quiet school teacher with lots of hopes and dreams. Many of those dreams became reality as she taught at Briarcliff Elementary in Cary, NC.

As a first-grade school teacher, she took special interest in each of her students. During the summer she wrote to each of them, expressing individual traits that were special about them and encouraging them to write her back so they could practice their letter writing skills. Some former students kept in touch for many years even through long distances. When her first class of students graduated from high school she searched the local papers for their names and sent each one a card with a personal note. This became a summer tradition and, at the time of her death, newspaper clippings, photographs, and graduation cards were by her bedside.

"Life doesn't revolve around things, it revolves around people — the ones you love and enjoy being with," Betty wrote in one of her journals. "You can have all the things in the world but if you have them all by yourself, it's no good," she said.

A woman of faith who sought to bless the lives of those around her, she died at the age of 37 from Marfan's Syndrome.

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Betty Jo Roach



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Roach

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Reynolds

Suzanne Reynolds grew up in Lexington, NC and graduated from Meredith College, *summa cum laude*, in 1971 with a degree in English. She continued her education, going on to receive a master's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and an honors law degree from Wake Forest University.

Reynolds' mentor at Meredith was Mory Lynch Johnson, former chairperson of the English department and professor for 50 years. A picture of Johnson now hangs behind Suzanne Reynolds' desk.

The successful law career that Reynolds balances with church and family duties began with her realization that the analysis involved in law was much like the poetry analysis she so loved. She went on to earn a full professorship at Wake Forest in 1989. She specializes in representing family and women's issues and is active in women's attorney associations for Forsyth County and the NC Civil Liberties Union. Notable career highlights include rewriting a multi-volume treatise on NC family law, giving the 1986 Meredith Founder's Day address, and being selected as the 1992 Emily Prudden lecturer for Pfeiffer College.

Reynolds says, "Lawyers have the tools in society to do things not many people can do. Those tools should be in the hands of the most responsible people, and if I do anything in teaching, if I ever impress upon students the responsibility of being a lawyer, I feel that I've done something right."

Reynolds
Suzanne Reynolds



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Person

An Oxford, NC native, Margaret Person Currin graduated from Meredith in 1972 with a major in religion. She furthered her education at Campbell University School of Law, where she was a member of the first graduating class, and at Georgetown University Law Center. Her impressive career duties have included being an attorney, an assistant professor and assistant dean at the Campbell School of Law, and in 1988 being appointed US Attorney. Prior to that appointment as US Attorney, this job belonged to her husband, Samuel T. Currin, who went on to serve as an NC Superior Court Judge. She commented after being sworn in that she would devote her energies to eliminating "drugs, white-collar crime, child pornography, obscenity, and political corruption."

She balances her teaching and political careers with motherhood, active church membership, and an unfailing loyalty to Meredith College. Margaret Person Currin has made outstanding achievements in an often male-dominated field, exemplified by her position as the first female US Attorney in North Carolina. Margaret represents the results of hard work and dedication to community as well as a woman's ability to make a difference in the world.

Margaret Person Currin

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Rich

Michelle Rich graduated from Meredith College in 1973 with a degree in American Civilization. As a student at Meredith, she felt that she received an excellent education. She says, "My years at Meredith gave me the self-confidence to believe that there are no limits in how one can excel in life with proper planning, preparation and execution." For Michelle, all of the experiences that went with obtaining her liberal arts degree from Meredith gave her the basis she needed to accomplish anything in life. She remembers Normo Rose and Frank Grubbs as the teachers most influential during her years at Meredith.

In the recent years, Michelle has proven that she can accomplish anything. She is president and owner of M. Rich Company, a commercial real estate firm. Her staff has grown over the last ten years, and she has built a loyal client base that continues to grow as well. She has worked hard and in return earned the respect of her colleagues in the real estate industry. This attitude of "always getting back from that which you give" is a lesson that was taught to her at Meredith. Michelle has given her time to Meredith since her graduation and in the process has also met many clients whom she has felt privileged to serve. As a mentor to several Meredith students, Michelle has enjoyed that time and has even employed Meredith graduates in her business. She has also given her time to Meredith as president of the College Alumnae Association, 1997-98, which she considers her most outstanding community service.

As a successful businesswoman and continued friend of the college, Michelle is certain that she gained self-confidence at Meredith. She feels that attending an all-female institution gave her the ability to be comfortable with any group of people in any situation. This confidence has contributed to her success in the male-dominated field that she has chosen as a career. In 1998, Michelle was named one of the top businesswomen in the Triangle. Her advice to Meredith women: "Make every day count."

Michelle Rich

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Goodman

Vanessa Goodman Barnes graduated from Meredith College with a degree in political science and journalism in 1988. While at Meredith, Vanessa was involved with student activities including serving as class president her freshman and senior years and editing the *Meredith Herald* her sophomore, junior and senior years. In 1985, Vanessa received the Carlyle Campbell Award. Since graduating from Meredith, she has remained involved with the college as an alumna and employee. As a staff member of Meredith, Vanessa has served as Assistant and Associate Director of Admissions. Now she is the Associate Director of the 23+ program.

One of the most valuable tools Vanessa received from Meredith is the ability to write well and communicate verbally. Dr. Betty Webb and Dr. Clyde Frazier played major roles in her career development and were great sources for support and encouragement to her. Vanessa credits Meredith with providing her numerous opportunities for leadership while recognizing the importance of community service. She also learned how to serve as a member of a team and how to appreciate different cultures and backgrounds. Because of these positive experiences at Meredith she has sought to lead more students of color to the college. She has chartered the African-American Alumnae Chapter in an effort to reconnect many alumnae to the school. Meredith faculty and staff are also more active with the issues of diversity on campus because of the Diversity Task Force, which she chairs. Vanessa is happy to have a part in helping high school and adult students select appropriate college choices. She says, "Various notes and thankful hugs let me know that the service I have provided is worth the effort it takes to make a student's dream a reality."

As a hospice volunteer, Vanessa extends her helping attitude into the community. Her mother's struggle with cancer prompted her to pursue this task and she has learned that through this service you will receive more than you could ever hope to give. One patient Vanessa worked with continued to have a positive attitude even though she had terminal cancer. This patient's optimism and appreciation for the time they spent together has inspired her to continue her work as a volunteer.

Vanessa feels that Meredith College gave her a greater self-confidence and the ability to be more assertive. She feels that at an all-female institution you realize that you are truly in control of your destiny and you can go as far as you are willing to dream. Vanessa's words to Meredith women are, "Get involved in as many activities as your schedule will allow. You can't make a difference if you are not involved. College is a time to grow and learn. Seize the moment, because now is all you have."

Vanessa Goodman Barnes

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In 1952, Wilda Brown received a B.A. in Music Education and Piano from Berea College in Kentucky. After graduation she worked as a private piano teacher, a public school music educator in Illinois and North Carolina and as a church choral director for many years. However, she wanted to continue her education, and at age 52 she was one of the first women to be accepted into the Master's of Music program at Meredith College.

Working for her master's taught her the value of risking oneself for a desired goal and having the patience to achieve it. Dr. David Lynch, Mr. James Clyburn and Dr. James Fogle were very influential and encouraging teachers during her education. She is thankful they had confidence in her as a student who not only had five children but also a full teaching load of private students. Completing her degree, Wilda wrote a thesis paper and performed a master's recital. The recital was a personal achievement for her since she had not performed from memory in 30 years. After she received her degree in 1989, she was invited to join the adjunct faculty at Meredith. As a teacher she says, "My association with the quality staff, faculty and students at Meredith College has been a constant source of satisfaction and inspiration. Meredith colleagues have served as professional role models for me."

Wilda remains active outside of her involvement with Meredith. She continues to maintain a private studio and has been adjudicator for various piano competitions both locally and statewide, worked as an accompanist for choral groups and professional soloists, and performed with other professional pianists. One summer she was asked by Dr. Fogle to help host the Music Teachers National Association's Regional Music competitions at Meredith. During this three-day event, she worked directly with Regional Director Dr. Paul Stewart from UNC-G. She reaped many rewards from her involvement with this event, including getting better acquainted with many local and state professional musicians and being asked to be on the NCMTA board. Wilda is very proud of the two positions she has held on the NCMTA board, the National Federation of Music Clubs, the Raleigh Music Club and having been elected president of the Raleigh Piano Teachers Association from 1992-1994.

The experience and confidence Wilda gained from her involvement with Meredith College and other community activities has carried over to other areas of her life. This is particularly true in dealing with the problems facing her son David and other NC citizens with developmental disabilities. In part because of her personal persistence, but also because of her increased credentials as an adjunct professor at Meredith, she was able to have her voice heard at O'Berry Center, where she was appointed to the Human Rights Committee. She became active in the Mental Retardation Association and was appointed to a State Advisory group that works directly with the Department of Human Resources. Achieving her master's in music at Meredith and all the experiences that came with it opened many doors for Wilda, including taking on more professional positions and passing on knowledge to her own students. She feels that Meredith provides students with the opportunities to explore and develop their own potential. Her advice to Meredith students is to not be afraid to take risks. "Take advantage of being part of the Meredith community to grow personally and enjoy learning."

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Wilda Eskew Brown



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Buxton

Elaine Buxton earned a degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina in 1983 and, in 1993 took her Master's in Business Administration from Meredith College. Attending Meredith opened many doors for Elaine both in her career and community involvement.

Living in Frankfurt, Germany, from 1984-1986, Elaine was the Operations Manager at Wedgwood China Marketing, Ltd. There she managed distribution, training, buying and administration for the company. In 1987, Elaine returned to North Carolina and joined Canfero, Inc. in Cary. She is now the Executive Vice President of this marketing firm. The company was named "Small Business of the Year" in 1990 by the Cary Chamber of Commerce, "Best Business" in 1994 by the Triangle Directory of Women-owned Businesses and has been featured in magazines, newspapers and news broadcasts. Elaine is very proud to have been a part of this company from the beginning. Extending her knowledge of the professional work world back to Meredith students, Elaine has been involved with Meredith's business mentoring program, which places students with professional women who meet with the students and involve them in professional activities. Elaine has not only been a mentor, but from 1993-94 took on the task of chairing the program, a position she found both challenging and rewarding.

As an evening student at Meredith, Elaine was concerned that a few of the student services were unavailable to her. This concern led to her involvement and the organization of the Brayhill Leadership Advisory Committee. From there, Elaine was recommended for Meredith's Board of Associates, which she was on from 1993-97. Elaine has been on Meredith's Board of Trustees since January 1998. She is also involved in the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Steering Committee for Year 2000, Re-Accreditation Study, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. One of her most memorable accomplishments was being on the Board of Directors of Life Experiences, Inc. She is also on the Cary Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Achieving her master's degree was a stepping stone to new opportunities for Elaine. She feels that her years at Meredith elevated the meaning of her work. She remembers Becky Oatsvall as "without a doubt the best teacher I've personally encountered as a student. She taught me a lot while treating me like a valuable colleague." Elaine also remembers Rose Lippard and James Crew as supportive and inspirational teachers. Her advice to Meredith women is to "take advantage of every single opportunity of what's offered at Meredith. Every facet of Meredith is set up to be student-friendly, so find an interest and pursue it on campus."

Elaine Buxton

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Norman

At the age of 50, Judith Norman Hogan graduated from Meredith with a degree in music. Prior to her time at the college, she received her teaching degree at North Carolina Central University. But her lifelong love of music was so strong that she took the risk of taking a loan on her house to pursue her goals at Meredith. Being a full-time teacher at Immaculata in Durham, N.C., a student, and a single parent to an autistic son has been an incredible challenge for Ms. Hogan. But her faith in God and belief that life has a "purpose and a pattern" were the forces that inspired and drove her. Judith worked at Immaculata for 13 years teaching music. She always volunteered to help with every student music production and loved to see the children getting into character. She felt like she was able to pass on her passion for music to them. A piano and voice teacher, she influenced many young students.

Many of her students went on to the North Carolina School of the Arts. One of them, Micah Sam, plays in a local band and is minoring in music at UNC-Chapel Hill. He is just one example of the many lives she has touched. Judith is a woman strong in faith and a commitment to giving to others. She is remembered fondly by the staff, students and parents at Immaculata. She now lives in Union, South Carolina, where she can be closer to family.

Judith Norman Hogan

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1975 linda mckinnish bridges

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1985 ginger mauney

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1988 anita waters alpenfels

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1989 betsy ward-hutchinson

